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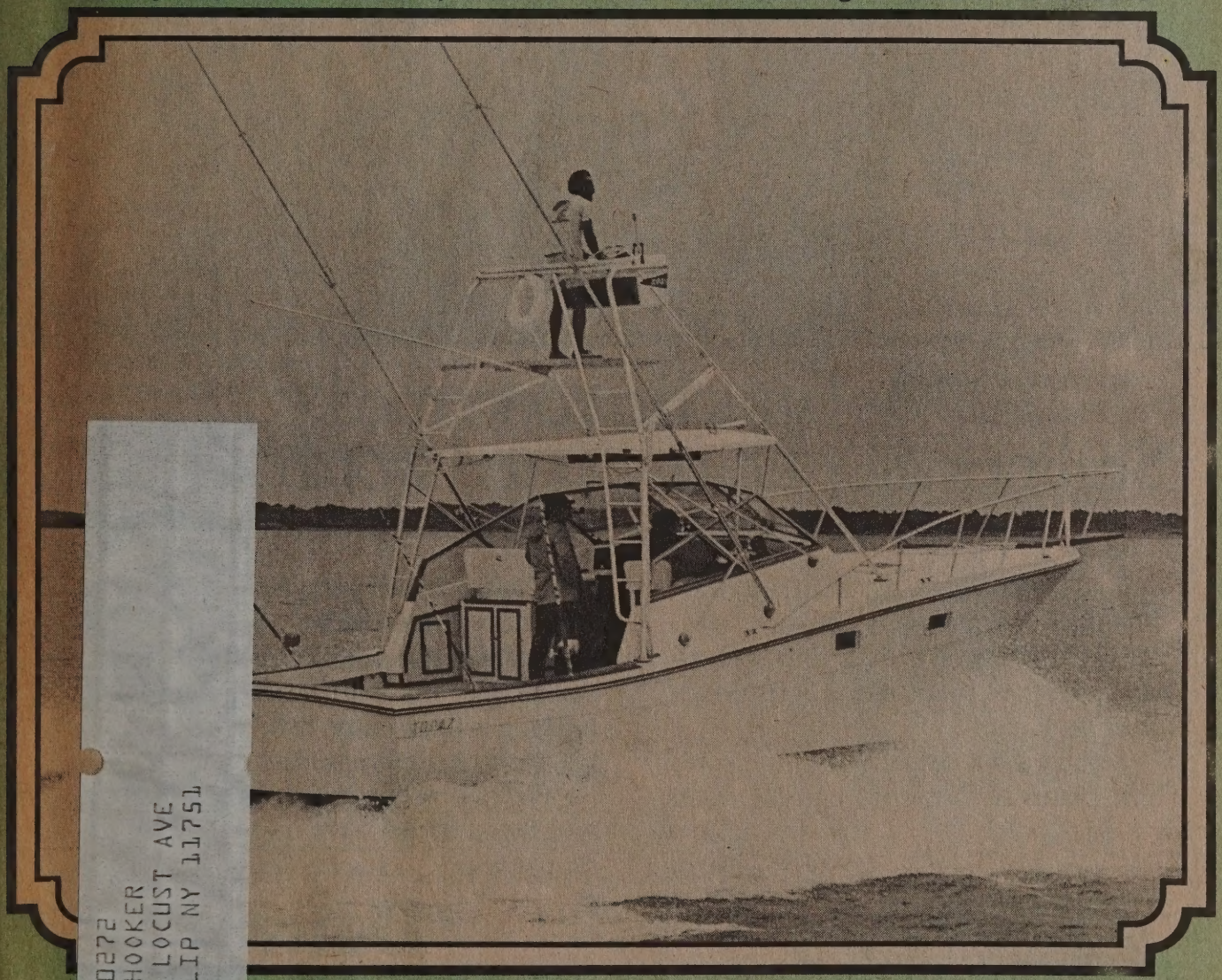
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

January 14th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 2 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



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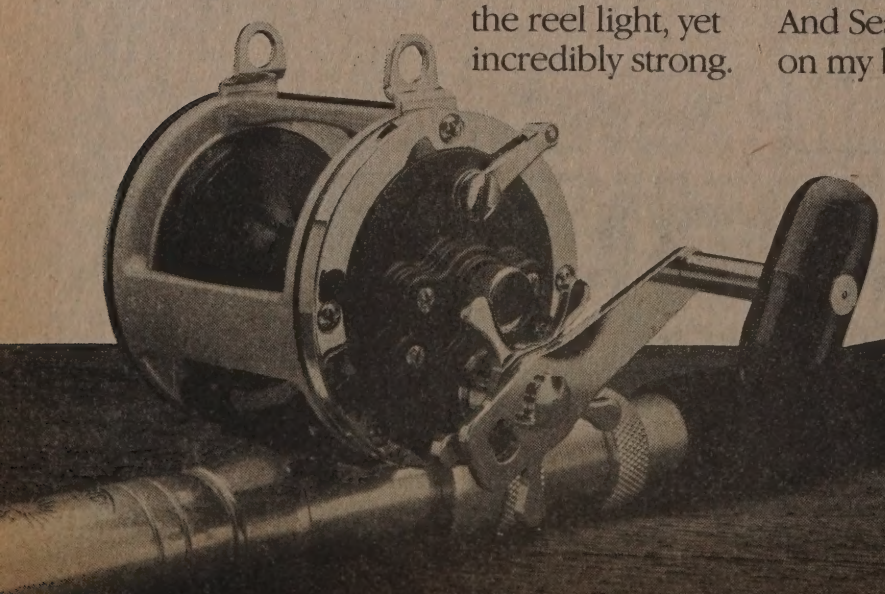

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 2 — January 14th, 1982

Features:

Tackle Doctor: NEW REEL SERVICING ..... Fisherman Staff 22
ADDITIONS TO YOUR BOAT ..... Tim Coleman 24
Rod Building Series: TOOLS, TRICKS & TIPS ..... C. Boyd Pfeiffer 26
HOW TO FISH A LURE ..... Andy Regina 30
BOAT SHOW TIME ..... Bob Whittier 32
CARE & CLEANING OF FISH ..... Matt Ahern 34
WHAT ENGINE SIZE? ..... Pete Barrett 36
"GHOST FISHERMEN" ..... Dr. Einar F. Grell .. 38
CLUB PACIFICO ..... Al Ristori 40
CANOE NEWS & TIPS ..... Fred Guardineer 43
PROTECT THOSE WHEEL BEARINGS ..... Charley Soares 44
GETTING MORE OUT OF THE SPIN ATOM . William A. Muller .. 45
FROSTBITE COD ..... Gerald Hahn 48
COD FISHERY THREAT RENEWED ..... Al Ristori 50

Pass It On 4
Chum Lines 10
New Products 17
Subscription Blank 55
Fishing Reports 60
Fisherman's Classified 66

About the Cover—

The finest in fishing machines will be on display at the New York Coliseum from Jan. 16 through Jan. 24 as the New York Boat Show comes to town.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **MORE ON ROD BUILDING**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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Carolyn Brewer, ART DIRECTOR
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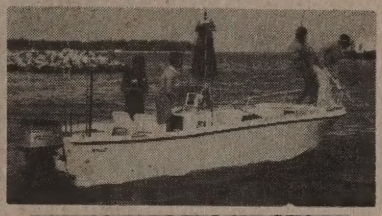

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FISHING SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN MANHATTAN

New York City residents will have an opportunity to attend a Manhattan-based fishing course this winter. Long Island Fisherman associate editor Al Ristori and local expert Guy DeBlasio will conduct Fishing Seminar '82 for six weeks, starting on Tuesday, February 2nd. The other dates will be February 9, 16, and 23; and March 2 and 16. Total cost for the program, which will cover everything from porgies and flounders to blues, stripers and tuna, is $60 (half price for kids under 16). The courses will be conducted from 8-10PM at the Pompeii Youth Program Gym at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 25 Carmine St., Manhattan (between Bleeker and Bedford Sts.—one block from the West 4th St. Station). Course materials and product samples are included. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot by sending a check for $60 to: Fishing Seminar '82, care of Guy DeBlasio, 132 Thompson St., New York, N.Y. 10012. For additional information, call Guy at 212-989-4497.

LIBBA BOARD MEETING

There will be a Long Island Beach Buggy Association Board of Directors meeting at Bondi's Tavern, Montauk Highway, Patchogue, January 14th at 8PM. Anyone interested in the functions of this organization may attend.

For more information on this, call 261-9767.

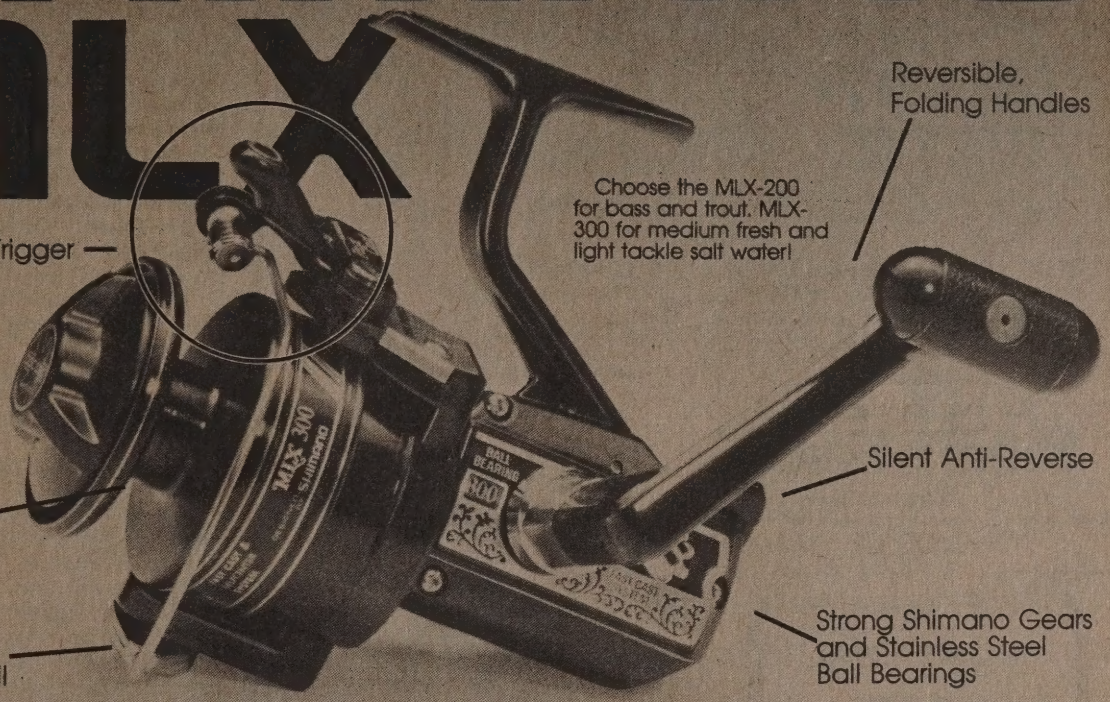
STATE STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT PLAN REJECTED

A packed hall of angry striped bass fishermen attending a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hearing in Hempstead, Long Island on December 9th, vocally registered strong disapproval of the State's striper management plan. Speaker after speaker rose to attack Anthony Taormina, the Department's Director of Marine Resources, for failing to present a meaningful plan to help save the trouble striped bass fishery. At times, Mr. Taomina's statements were booed.

Fred Schwab, New York's citizen delegate to the interstate striped bass management project, faulted the State plan for not following the interstate group's recommendations. These recommendations were the culmination of 3½ years of research and meetings by fisheries administrators, scientists, and resource users of 12 states.

Among the State's proposals singled out for criticism were its failure to include commercial netters

SHIMANO MLX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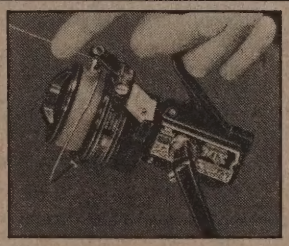
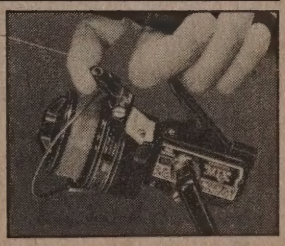
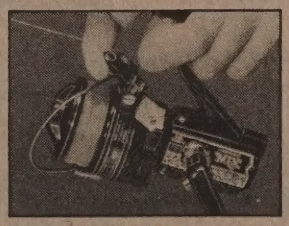


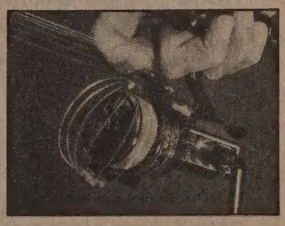
1. Self center bail.



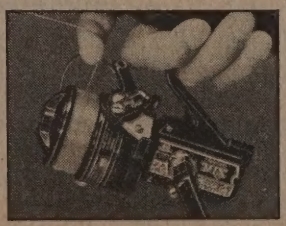
2. Pick up line.



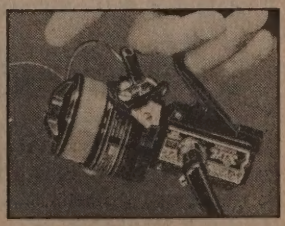
3. Squeeze bail trigger.



4. Bail opens.



5. Make your cast.



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in the provision for a 24'' minimum size for the coastal fishery, and failure to close down the Hudson River to netting during the striper spawning season. Taormina was also chided for suggesting a closed season on striped bass between December 1st and March 15th—a winter period when there are few migrant stripers in New York marine waters to be protected. One Hudson River netter suggested the State start regulating the coastal netters before increasing regulations on the Hudson.

Some of the organizations rejecting the DECs proposals for being too weak were Save Our Stripers, Nassau County Fish & Game Assoc., Suffolk Sportsmen's Alliance, United Mobile Sport Fishermen, Freeport Charter Boatmen, and The Long Island Fisherman. Several speakers recommended that Mr. Taormina take the State's proposals back to the drawing board, and return with a more equitable and sensible plan.

FREE BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 12-4 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will give a 13-lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship course on boat handling, navigation, legal requirements, and related subjects. Lessons will be given every Wednesday, starting on January 27th, 7:45-9:45PM at the Martin Van Buren High School, Hillside Ave., at 231st Street.

All lectures are free; there will be a $2.00 registration fee to the school. Books and materials are optional at a moderate cost. Equal opportunities are extended to all adults over 17.

For information, contact: Scott Riddle, 212-229-7281 or after 6PM, Kal Sekely, 212-HA 9-3553. .

COAST GUARD TO SIMPLIFY PAPERWORK PROCEDURES

The U.S. Coast Guard is proposing new rules to simplify the administrative and paperwork procedures involved in documenting a vessel.

Documenting is the term used for Federal procedures in registering a vessel by the owner.

The proposed regulations will eliminate or streamline a number of the forms used in the registration procedure. Requirements for marking the vessel's name, number and ''hailing'' port will be made more flexible. A ''hailing'' port is either where the vessel's documentation papers are kept or where the owner resides.

Other changes in the proposal include eliminating requirements to: report changes of vessel master to the Coast Guard; to require the vessel owner to show proof of citizenship if a non-native born citizen of the U.S.; advertise changes in a vessel's name; physically surrender and replace a vessel's document papers whenever the contents change and present the registration papers for annual renewal.

Some of the fees charged by the Coast Guard will change as a result of

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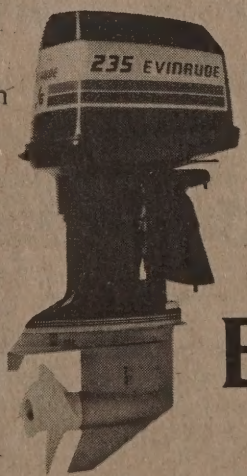

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the proposed changes in regulations. For example, the fee for initial documentation of a vessel used only for pleasure by the owner will go from $75 to $100. The $15 annual renewal fee of a vessel's papers will be eliminated.

The comment period on the new proposals will close January 15, 1982.

BASIC BOATING CLASS

The Great South Bay Power Squadron will conduct a free basic boating class for the general public. The classes will be held:

North Babylon Sr. High School, Deer Park Ave., North Babylon, NY. Registration on January 18 & 19, 7:30-9:30PM, Yellow cafeteria. First class on January 25, 8PM.

Islip Sr. High School, Montauk Highway, January 28 and February 2, 7:30-9:30PM, Sr. High School Cafeteria. First class on February 9, Jr. High School cafeteria, 8PM

Your entire crew, family, and friends will be welcome aboard the classes now forming.

For more information, call Lt. Thomas J. Barone, Sr. at (516) 666-5713.

THREAT TO MRFS

Since 1976 the Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium (MRFS) has been devoted to the conservation and balanced user-group development of marine fisheries resources. The annual MRFS, through production of six high quality scientific volumes, has provided fisheries managers and administrators with an invaluable source of information on saltwater fishing and marine game species that would otherwise not be available, and has been of great value to commercial as well as recreational users.

The NCMC, in cooperation with the Sport Fishing Institute and the International Game Fish Association, has planned, organized and conducted each program in the MRFS series, from the in-depth examination of the nature and value of marine recreational fishing (MRF) in 1976 to next year's proposed study of controversies and conflicts in MRF and their expeditious resolution.

But there may not be a Symposium in 1982. A significant portion of the financial support ($35,000 for 1982) for putting on the Symposium publishing the proceedings has come from a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the Department of Commerce. This year, due to budgetary constraints imposed on that Department, all grants have come under administrative review to determine which will receive support and which will not. The decision as to which projects do or do not get funding, however, is not part of a rational process; it is simply a matter of whose ox bellows loudest.

The MRFS is likely to lose its financial assistance, we have learned, unless something is done—immediately. PLEASE WRITE—better yet, CALL your Senators and Congressmen TODAY! Tell them that the MRFS performs an important service to national fisheries management in a cost-effective way. Point out that recently adopted NMFS policy calls for increased commitment to MRF programs and needs, and that the MRFS constitutes an integral part of the NMFS recreational fishing program. Ask your Senators and Congressman to contact Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige and Deputy Secretary Joseph Wright and urge that the Department of Commerce continue to provide a grant to fund the Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium.

1ST ANNUAL "ALL TACKLE" DEALER SHOW A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

All Tackle Distributors in Deer Park, New York offered a new concept in dealer information shows, on November 18 and 19. Geared mainly for independent dealers, All Tackle assembled all the representatives of the major fishing tackle manufacturers. The reps, besides demonstrating the new lines also negotiated directly with dealers on next season's orders. They were instructed from All Tackle to offer the dealers direct lowest prices available. A one-shot deal to allow the smaller dealers to compete more readily.

According to all sources—manufac-

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turers, their reps, and the individual dealers, the concept was a resounding success. Besides free lunch, refreshments and food, there was a free lottery drawing for over 20 door prizes. The top prize was a GE 19" color television, which was won by Sheepshead Bay Bait & Tackle in Brooklyn.

The "New" All Tackle is now making ready their 1982 catalog. In keeping with their new concept, the prices will be extremely competitive—hence; THE NEW All Tackle Distributors.

CHUM LINES

PRO COMMERCIAL VOICE

As a reader of your publication throughout my youth, I feel that a second side of your article, *Nets*, should be put forth.

No one, especially today's bona fide, full-time fisherman, needs to be told of the many problems confronting fishermen of all types—sport and commercial alike. High fuel prices and operating costs; often low prices for fish caught (whiting 12-15 cents a pound dockside in mid-January) and weather all combine to make the life of the fisherman hard and often low-paying. For every commercial man who "makes the hit," ten others are hard pressed to make enough money to justify the often large investment in their boats and gear.

There is enough confusion and controversy surrounding sport/commercial relations without inflaming matters more. Yours is a strong voice that commands the respect of a legion of sportsmen both on Long Island and beyond. Don't you think it could be better utilized to fight outside interests, rather than attacking a close cousin? Remember, we both want the same thing in the final analysis: assured fish stocks for all. Sincerely, *Patrick J. Heaney, Forest Hills, NY.*

Perhaps at least some of the point you made is well taken. Fishing is getting harder and harder for recreational and commercial fishermen alike. We do not object to commercial fishing and we do not object to the commercial fishing industry. We do, however, believe that the key to maintaining enough fish in the oceans for both user groups is sound management of all species. Clearly, if there were more fish around, both industries would prosper. Yet, growing populations of humans along the seashore and growing recreation needs and activities of our citizens will require that we manage people as well as fish species. That is, we must take action to separate the two user groups where they will tend to come into direct competition and where this competition may lead to social conflict

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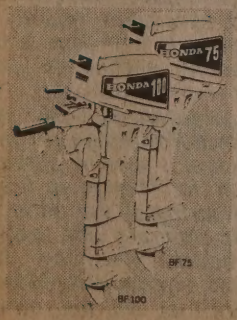

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and/or inhibit the vitality of the other user group's economic vitality. In order to make these laws, regulations, and agreements, special attention must be paid to the unique limitations and characteristics of practices and techniques of user groups. For example, the data shows clearly that well over 90% of the recreational fishermen are married by practice, tradition, and economics to the estuary and the inshore ocean. Thus, we find ourselves concerned about the startling growth of commercial fishing in the estuary and the inshore grounds. In some cases, these commercial harvestors have destroyed a very necessary recreational season for a given species. The latest example being the east end of Long Island Sound where draggers virtually eliminated the fall flounder season. The financial impact of this upon local tackle shops, marinas, motels, bait dealers, etc., can only be estimated but never truly appreciated. This has happened in spite of the fact that it was not necessary for the draggers to work in Petty's Bight. There were other areas where the flounders were also available in somewhat deeper water away from conflict with the recreational industry. You want us to have sympathy for the poor netter trying to make a living. Well okay, but do they and you have sympathy for the local mom and pop tackle shop who's trying to do the same thing, or the guy who wants only a nice day of fishing with his children, or the species decimated in its own home? Well? Dr. W.A.M.

POLLUTION EFFECTS

Knowing the difficulties that the Chesapeake Bay striped bass population faces with regard to pollution and the destruction of their environment, what effect will the reduced genetic pool have on the resurgence of the fish? Natural predation will eliminate the genetically weaker fish, but pollution indiscriminantly kills the fittest as well as the weakest.

Also, recently I've noticed the effectiveness sand crabs have as a bait for blackfish, yet their portability seems to be far inferior to that of the green crab. What factors reduce the viability of the sand crab as a commercially sold bait? *D. Koelsch, Garden City, N.Y.*

I don't know if I agree with you when you say that pollution will indiscriminantly kill both the fittest and the weakest specimens equally. Although man-made pollution is not a natural selecting mechanism (selecting fittest from weakest), it is nonetheless a factor that will select. Perhaps within the range of genetic information that a species possesses, there is room for change so that the resulting offspring of the parent fish are able to tolerate the pollution somewhat better. We know this is true in insects, so should it not be true in fish? The fly in the ointment (forgive the pun), may come about because fish are far less prolific than

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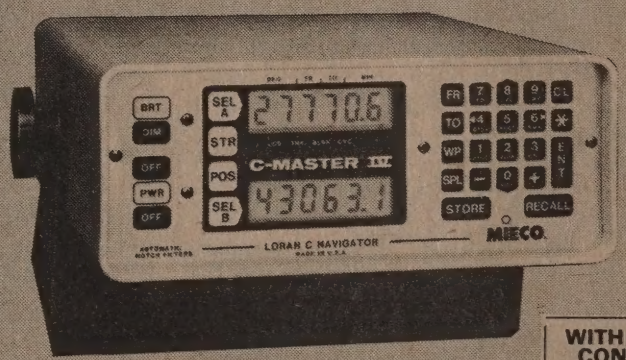

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insects and because the generation time of fish is far greater. Thus, it may take longer for a species of fish to react genetically to pollution and it could be too late by the time it does react. Thus, unlike insects, the fish may become extinct before the species can change.

With respect to crabs, the key seems to be oxygen need. Some crabs, like green crabs, can be very happy for a long time out of water as long as they are moist and cool. Other crabs, like the sand crab, literally suffocates when out of water for too long. Dr. W.A. Muller.

FRESHWATER SHARPSHOOTER

I am writing to you about one of your articles in the October 29th issue of The Long Island Fisherman. The name of the article was *Fisherman Worthy Products.*

In it, you stated that your son fished for largemouth, panfish, and pickerel. I like to pursue these fish very much, but I don't know where to fish for them on Long Island.

I would really appreciate it if you could send me the names of a couple good lakes and where they are. Thank you very much! *T. Petsopoulos, Flushing, N.Y.*

P.S. How big are the average fish he catches?

I guess that my son Drew catches largemouths that average about 2 lbs. or so, but there is the occasional surprise to 5 lbs. Pickerel average about 1 lb., but he has caught them to 3 lbs. He has caught some truly remarkable panfish. I remember one bluegill and one crappie that were larger than any I had ever seen before. His fishing spots are no secret. I can't remember them all, but I cearly remember Forge Pond, Great River, Mill Pond, and Peconic River. For trout, he regularly goes to Connetquot. Dr. W.A.M.

HELP! FOR FISHERMEN'S WIVES

To Fishermen's wives everywhere:

Help! It's *that* time again! As the last few end of the season bass are pulled in, the fisherman's wife must prepare herself for those dreaded words, "They pulled the boat out today."

The first weekend isn't so bad, because the boat needs to be winterized, hardware must be stowed and at least one die-hard fishing buddy still has a boat in the water.

The second weekend is usually Thanksgiving and what with family obligations and such, usually passes rather quietly. But that third weekend, it begins (and continues until March!). First comes the moping and pacing around every room of the house. Then when the carpet is about to give out, it's suddenly time to take the reels apart and oil them for the winter. It seems to be inherent in their nature—sort of like a bear's hibernation. The poor harried wife will come unsuspectingly home from work one day and her dining room table will be covered with unassem-

bled re and cans of WD40. Of course, ey stay there for a few weeks ause 2 or 3 reels always need a w part that is never in stock and nt be ordered. (The wife should now better than to invite comp at this time of the year, so the e is free for this important func.)

We the reels are being put back on rods, the fisherman husband not some frayed edges on the rod wr ings. Off come the reels again an ut come the rod supply catalogs. Si he is going to re-wrap the rods a way, he may as well buy new des. The rod wrapping machine n takes the place of the reels on the ing room table.

As he realigns his stock of rods he ways notices that he is missing a w sizes that are of paramount nportance to any decent fisherman. ince the catalogs are out, he may as well order a few new blanks.

He doesn't pay any attention as the wife asks where he plans on putting them. As it is, there is so much fishing equipment she can barely find a place to sit down. Where most people have coat racks in their foyer, this house has rod racks!

One lucky wife is having a baby this winter. At first her husband considered having it stuffed and mounted, but now he is concentrating on how to teach the child to dig worms instead of digging in the sand box. Most husbands are jealous of the attention a new baby gets. The fisherman husband is jealous of the space a new baby takes up. Why, there that playpen sits in the middle of the living room floor, his gill nets could be spread out there to be repaired! How unfair!

Well, only a couple of more weeks until Thanksgiving. Things are peaceful on the home front while the boats are still in the water. But, as you button up your sweaters against the autumn chill, you can feel it in the air: it's *that* time again. Get ready! *Laura Aurisy, New Rochelle, NY.*

Well, Laura, we certainly enjoyed your letter. We realized that although some of it is very true, you also held your tongue against your cheek for some of those remarks (stuffing and mounting the baby—really.). I'm not dedicated to the boat, but the call of the surf is a loud one for me. My wife makes the same remarks. She tells me about my moping around all winter and how itchy I get at times and there is the period where she has to readjust to having me around more. It takes a special and loving woman to stay married to a man who fishes hard and my hat's off to my own wife and all the wives out there in the same boat! Dr. W.A.M.

YELLOW LUMPS?

My name is Jerome Lafragola. I go to Xavier High School in New York City. One of my teachers who teaches me oceanography asked me to take samples of water from Rockaway as a project. I took water from the area near the sewage plants and I was watched by guards with binoculars. They apparently cared about what I was doing. After I took the water up in a jar, I closed the cap and the water was a cloudy yellow in color with yellow lumps on the bottom. My teacher still has this on his desk. What could this be? Is it harmful or not? What can be done about it? It is hurting the fishing at Rockaway? *Jerome Lafragola, Bklyn, NY.*

Sorry, I have no idea at all. However, if you are really interested in pursuing this, you could take water samples to the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation for analysis. The NYC Department of Health's number can be secured in the Brooklyn phone book; while the DEC number is 516-751-7900. Dr. W.A.M.

SEA GRANT OBJECTS

I read with interest your editorial on Sea Grant and Recreational Fishing in a recent issue of The Long Island Fisherman. In this, the Sea Grant publication "Coastlines" was strongly criticized for over-emphasis on commercial fisheries as compared to marine sport fisheries. I feel readers of your column should be provided additional information on the purposes of "Coastlines."

The topics included in "Coastlines" are not selected arbitrarily. In 1980 we conducted a poll of our readership (then about 4,000 persons) to determine how they felt about the subjects

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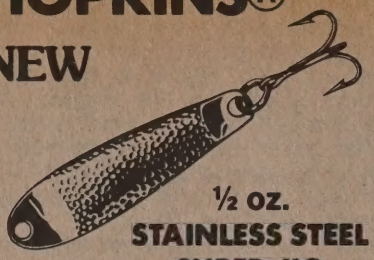

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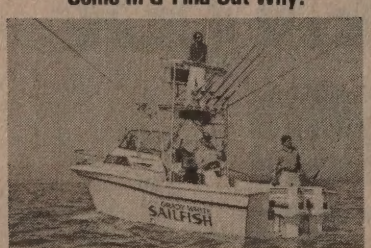

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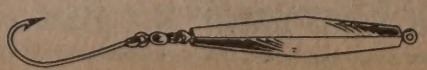
we were presenting. We do this about every two years. Some readers expressed concerns similar to those voiced in your recent editorial. At the same time, we were criticized for over-emphasizing sport fisheries along the Great Lakes. And, our readers with commercial fishing interests, which at that time outnumbered those identifying sport fishery as their lead interest by about 4 to 1, expressed severe displeasure at the small amount of coverage for commercial fishery we had during 1979-80.

My point is that we do not have the luxury that The Long Island Fisherman has of focusing on one primary theme. "Coastlines" must involve all of our subjects including recreation and tourism, erosion problems, youth education, consumer fish use, coastal development, and yes, commercial fishing along both the Great Lakes and marine coast. The best we can hope to achieve is a semblance of balance in our treatment of subjects over time.

This is not to rebut your contention that we have strongly emphasized commercial fisheries in recent issues. We have. That decision was deliberately based on what we felt to be significant developments within the industry. Similarly, we will be seeking to increase our emphasis on marine recreation and tourism (including sport fishing) in future issues. As we do increase emphasis on marine sport fishing, I fully expect that other interest groups will voice concerns that their special interest has been slighted. Such is the fate of a multi-topical/multi-audience publication.

We appreciate your and any other reader comments and would hope you take the opportunity to voice your sugestions to our "Coastlines" editor. Sincerely, *M. W. Duttweiler, Program Coordinator.*

Your points are well taken—one must respect one's constituency. However, it isn't only the volume of space devoted to commercial fishing, but rather a more subtle image that all these writings create in the mind of the reader. Let's try to avoid the stereotype of the commercial fisherman waving the American Flag, eating apple pie, and trying valiantly to feed his family. That image just isn't accurate. We think the 200 mile limit business has built up some unrealistic expectations and many are flocking to romanticize commercial fishing. We must be careful of this, because in the hands of the wrong people, well-intentioned imaging can become propaganda. We suggested only a more even-handed and realistic approach. Commercial fishing isn't the answer to Long Island's economic woes. If anything is all by itself (although we doubt this), then recreational fishing is far more likely to be the savior. Dr. W.A.M.



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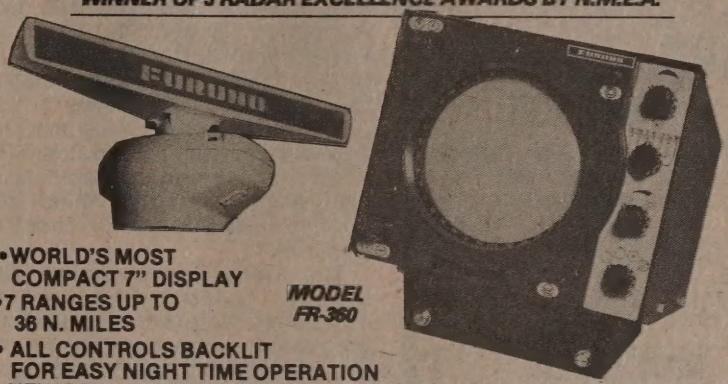

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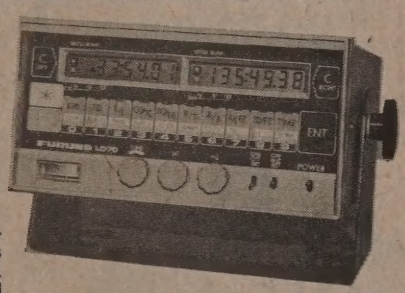

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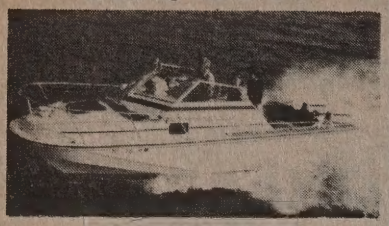

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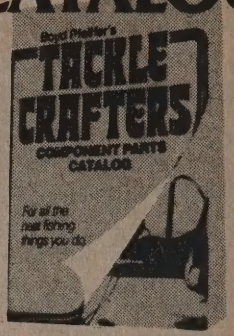
The standard Inmar 99E indicates depth from 2' to 99'. This model has an on/off-gain control and is back lit in red for night use. A flashing over-range blink feature signifies that water depth is in excess of 99'.

Two deluxe models, the Inmar 99 (2-99 ft.) and the Inmar 199 (2-199 ft.) have many desirable operator features. A large High Visibility LCD display indicates depth in tenths of feet, under ten feet. The LCD display is back-lit in red for night use. Background illumination is adjusted by an automatic light sensor. A built-in variable depth alarm can be preset to audibly warn the operator of approaching shallow water. Other prominent operating features include: over-range blink, bottom-lock blink, built-in noise suppressor circuit and keel offset.

The entire Inmar digital depthsounder product line has been completely designed, engineered and produced at Inmar's extensive manufacturing facility located in upstate New York. Inmar digital depthsounders are intended for installation aboard pleasure boats and commercial vessels where continuous and accurate depth monitoring is required. The Inmar digital depthsounder series is the basis of a family of contemporary marine electronic equipment which will all be housed in a similar package.

1982 COMPONENT CATALOG



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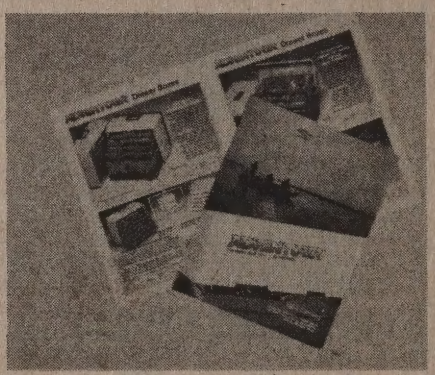

FLAMBEAU'S 1982 CATALOG

Flambeau's 24-page color catalog features the complete line of Adventurer better built tackle boxes. Researched and designed to fulfill every fisherman's individual need, salt water or fresh, pan fish or blue water anglers; Adventurer has a box for all occasions and degree of expertise, from the drawer and satchel type boxes for the experienced fisherman with a vast tackle carrying need, to the 2 or 3 tray tackle boxes ideal for the novice. Each tackle box is presented in a full color photograph with detailed descriptions and specifications.

This year's catalog also contains a wide range of other convenient utility and all purpose boxes with thousands of household and shop uses. One to solve every storage problem.

Several other sportsman related products including Manhandler mugs, shooting accessories, decoys,

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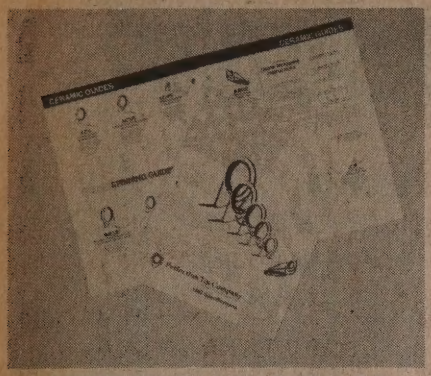
bait buckets, etc., are also highlighted in Flambeau's 1982 Catalog. Full color photographs, descriptions and specifications throughout.

For your copy write: Flambeau Products Corp., 15981 Valplast Rd., Middlefield, OH 44062.



PERFECTION 1982 CATALOG

This 16-page line art catalog features all of Perfection's American made rod mountings with complete descriptions and specifications. Highlighted are ceramic and wire frame spinning guides, casting guides, and tiptops and fly rod snake guides and tops.

Perfection **manufactures** the guides in America. The Catalog **illustrates** and describes them. And you can buy them...at 1981 prices...that's right, just as the guides assist the fisherman in overcoming tough fishing conditions, Perfection lands the inflation monster with an across the board price freeze at last year's levels.

See all Perfection's American made rod mountings in the 1982 Catalog: Write Perfection Tip Company, 4550 Jackson St., Denver, CO 80216.

BOONE INCREASES ITS SUNDANCE® TROLLING LURE SERIES

Due to the success of the Sundance strikers and Sundance Jets, Boone has added two new sizes to the Sundance Series.

Series 2100 is 3 oz., 7½'' long and Series 2120 is 8 oz., 12'' long.

As with all of the other Sundance strikers the mirrors act like a strobe light going off in the water bringing the big ones to the surface.

The Sundance® strikers are available at leading tackle stores or write Boone, Box 4009, Winter Park, Florida 32793.

WORDEN'S INTRODUCES NEW WEIGHT FORWARD LURE

Yakima Bait Company, manufacturer of Worden's lures, has developed a new, weight forward lure called Rooster Eye.

The weight forward design causes Rooster Eye's blade to spin at the slightest movement making it an excellent lure for jigging, casting, trolling or drifting.

The Rooster Eye's offset center of gravity eliminates annoying line twist and allows the hook to ride upright, ultimately catching fewer snags and more fish.

Booksize Loran C receiver now available with Lat/Lon display.

Last year we introduced the SI-TEX/KODEN 767. A fully automatic receiver in a small "booksize" case. Ideal for both the center console of the sport fisherman and the overcrowded wheelhouse of larger boats. Features include internal notch filters, "store" and "recall" modes, "always on" memory, elapsed time counter and computerized steering.

Now we're adding the 767C. An advanced receiver that automatically converts TD's to latitude and longitude coordinates. It also displays: cross track error in hundredths of a mile, distance to go in nautical miles, time to go in hours/minutes, heading in degrees, speed in knots, elapsed time and bearing in degrees of up to seven waypoints/destination.

Now you have your choice of receivers and the price is right. Suggested retail price of the model 767 is now just $1,495. Price of the 767C is just $1,795. The choice is yours. Either way, it's a good one.

For complete information, see your authorized SI-TEX dealer or write SI-TEX, P.O. Box 6700, Clearwater, FL 33518.

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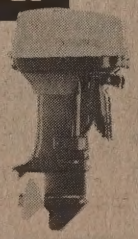

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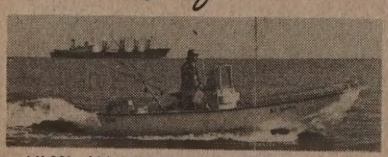

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According to the manufacturer, field testers around the country are reporting catching trout, bass, crappie and perch with the lure.

For more information on the Rooster Eye, Rooster Tail, Spin-N-Glo or other Worden's lures, send $1.00 for a Worden's catalog to Yakima Bait Company, P.O. Box 310, Granger, WA 98932.

NEW SEA NYMPH "14R"

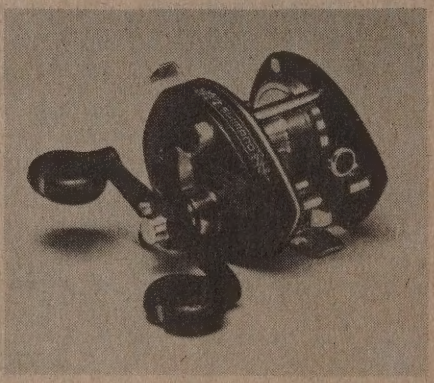
When a boat is to be called upon for solo ventures and small group fishing situations, Sea Nymph's new "14R" admirably fits the bill. The 14R integrates a back-to-basics layout with solid aluminum construction to offer anglers a reliable and economical boat to own and operate.

Built of high-temper marine aluminum, the 14R offers the durability of rivetted construction. The craft features three bench seats, oar locks, bow and stern hand-holds, and a cast aluminum bow eye as standard equipment.

With a total weight of only 175 lbs., the 14R launches and loads with a minimum of time and effort. The craft has a 13 ft. 8 in. centerline, 62 in. beam, 30 in. bow height, and a total weight capacity of 830 lbs. Although rated for a 25 h.p. motor, the 14R is suitable on lakes with lower horsepower restrictions.

Sea Nymph's 14R is available in an attractive natural aluminum finish, and has a suggested retail price of $1,000.

From Sea Nymph Boat Company, P.O. Box 337, Syracuse, IN 46567.



BANTAM 10 SG BY SHIMANO

The newest Bantam—small only in price and weight—this reel will put Bantam casting performance within reach of every serious fisherman. The Bantam 10 SG offers lightweight design, precision engineering, and incomparable performance that only a Bantam can deliver; yet it's priced to compete with ordinary casting reels. This remarkable reel features Shimano Super Gears, 30% stronger than the incredibly durable gears in last year's Bantam reels, and special sintered bronze Max-Flite bushings that retain lubrication for low friction and long life. The pushbutton spool release disengages the levelwind for totally free spool casting. An aluminum oxide line guide ring provides reduced line friction. An adjustable

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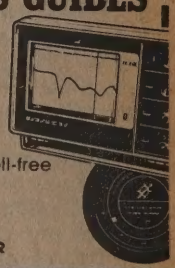

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cast control combined with a centrifugal brake weight system allows ultra lite lure casting without overruns and backlashes. A multi-element drag for smooth line payout on running fish, and a strong durable handle with comfortable paddle grips are all standards on the Bantam 10 SG. Born into the Bantam family, this new Bantam 10 SG will provide Shimano superior lightweight design engineering and pride of ownership to thousands of fishermen. Shimano—Tomorrow's Tackle Today.

For more information write to: Shimano American Corp., 205 Jefferson Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054.

NEW FROM WHALER: THE OUTRAGE 18

The Outrage 18 has a big boat's appetite for offshore fishing and a little boat's appetite for fuel.

The 18, Boston Whaler's® newest Outrage, is designed and built to go offshore with the big boats. The 18' 6" V hull gives the boat a soft ride in rough seas without sacrificing speed. Rated to carry up to 150 h.p., its performance does not force compromises in passengers' comfort. The curved chines abaft the bow throw the spray down, not into the boat.

Once out on the fishing grounds, the Outrage 18's 7' 2" beam and outside sponsons provide a stable platform at slow trolling speeds. With 58 gallons of fuel in the belly tank and two 12-gallon tanks under the optional pilot seat, the Outrage 18 can stay out to fish, and not cut bait.

Offshore, far from port, where the threat of bad weather looms large, the Outrage 18 provides aid and comfort in a storm. Its fiberglass hull with foam core is not just rugged. It's unsinkable. Boston Whaler's ten-year transferable warranty is testimony to that.

The boat's appointments are also designed to give functional service t to the fisherman. The center console has lockable stowage for the more valuable fishing gear and electronics, while rod racks and holders keep rods within easy reach. The open decks allow fishing from all sides of the boat. Stainless steel grab rails on the center console, along with bow and side rails, provide sure grip and extra protection in rough weather.

The overboard draining forward locker is built into the foam core hull which provides it with plenty of insulation. Finally, the good looks of teak console hatches and gunwales make the Outrage 18 a handsome as well as a functional boat.

FREE BOOKLETS FROM TACKLE CRAFTERS

Tackle Crafters, the only complete mail order supply house specializing in rod and lure building parts for fishermen, now has available booklets designed to help anglers learn just how easy it is to build their own tackle. "Building rods and lures is a simple, money saving hobby all year round," says Boyd Pfeiffer, President of the company and author of **Tackle Craft**, "but some anglers seem to feel that making tackle required some special insight, skill, or knowledge."

Pfeiffer notes that nothing could be further from the truth and feels that "most anglers have sons making plastic models from kits that are far more difficult and tedious than making the best possible rod."

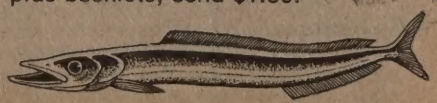
To help anglers learn just how easy it is to make tackle, Tackle Crafters now has free booklets which outline all the steps necessary to make rods and build lures.

Booklets include:

- •Determining Guide Spacing for Rods
- •Rod Building: The Easy to Do Guide
- •Lure Building: Easy To Do Guide
- •Build Your Own Casting and Spin Cast Rods
- •Build Your Own Fly Rods
- •Build Your Own Spinning Rods
- •Build Your Own Surf Rods
- •Build Your Own Boat & IGFA Rods
- •Make Your Own Spinners

For any 4 of the booklets, just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: TACKLE CRAFTERS, 14303 Robcaste Rd., Phoenix, Md 21131.

For all 9 booklets, send $.50 postage, plus addressed envelope. For a 60-page Tackle Crafters catalog plus booklets, send $1.50.



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NEW REEL SERVICING

I just bought five new reels to replace reels I purchased only last year, but which literally fell apart after only one fishing season of use. I do fish frequently, sometimes 3 times a week, so I realize I give them a lot of wear and tear that maybe some other people might not do. However, I do feel that they should have lasted longer. I have some reels that I got nearly 15 years ago and they perform better than the newer reels.

In all fairness, the new reels didn't cost what my old ones did, but they were still the best of that manufacturers line. A friend of mine says he gets longer life from his reels because he takes them apart right from the beginning when they are still brand new and unused, so he can lubricate them. I'd like to try this, but I'm not sure that I know how to go about it.

Any suggestions and comments to help me do it right? *Steve Marsh.*

For the money, today's reels are better than most older reels. They usually offer better drags, stronger construction and more resistance to corrosion. We get most of these benefits from so-called space age technology, and at a lower price than ever before.

Mass production, however, can have drawbacks. Many new reels as delivered to the dealer's shelves may lack proper lubrication and we've often seen loose screws from reels right out of the box. Unlike a car dealer who must service the product he sells, it is economically impossible for a tackle dealer to hand service every reel he sells. It would probably be pointless since 99% of the reels sold will never need service of any kind.

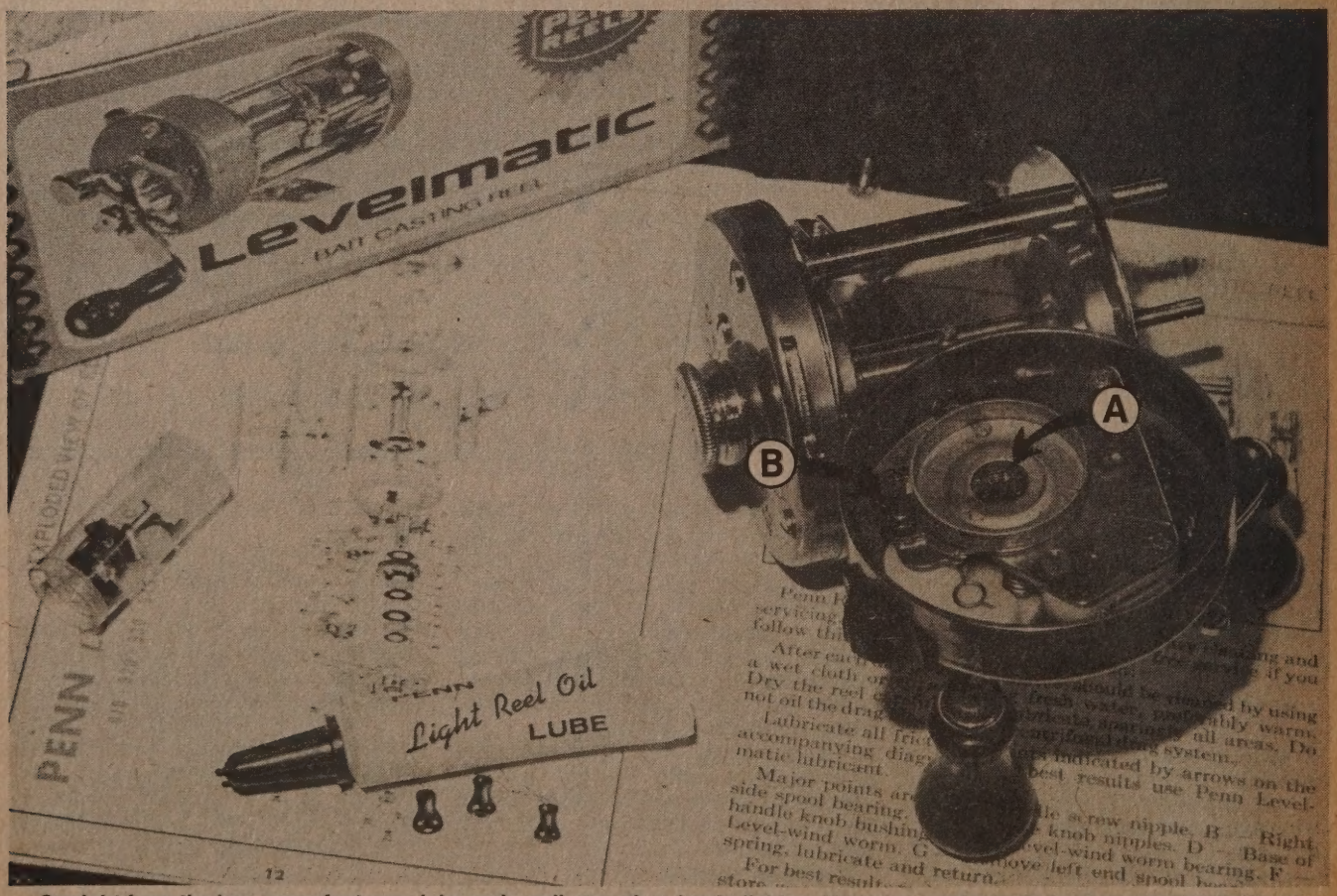
For the serious fisherman who gets out on the water more than only a few times a year, it is imperative that he service his tackle periodically for consistent performance.

If you want to try servicing the reels yourself, consult the booklet that comes with the reels and follow the instructions of the manufacturer. There is usually a schematic diagram showing parts sequence in case you get stumped while re-assembling the reel.

Here's what we look for when servicing a new reel:

SPINNING REELS—remove side plate, check lubrication of gears and sliding shafts, anti-reverse parts, click button for the anti-reverse and the main gear shaft. Add small amounts of oil or grease to unlubricated surfaces as needed. Lay a bead of grease around the edge of the side plate and close the reel. The grease will seal the inside of the reel from water. Be sure side plate screws are tight. Many reels now have two side plates; check both.

Remove the spool and then disassemble the drag washers. Be sure they are lubed if made of plastic, fiber, Teflon, leather or felt. Asbestos



Straight from the box, manufacturers lube reels well enough to begin fishing. However, angler must assume responsibility of proper maintenance. Trouble spots are "A"-pinion gear, "B"-free spool slides. Start your service program before you use the reel for the first time, it will last longer and perform better.

washers must be clean and dry—all others lubed with a fine grease or light oil. Re-assemble spool.

Spray reel with a light coating of oil (WD40, CRC, TriFlon, etc.) making sure all crevices get some oil. Pay particular attention to the bail, roller line guide and handle knob. Wipe the reel clean and you're ready for battle.

CONVENTIONAL REELS—on small conventional level wind reels, there is no need to completely take apart the reel. All these reels have two or three screws that allow removal of the right side plate which will give you access to the inside gears, etc. Make sure the free spool levers and slides are lightly lubed, the anti-reverse and the gear for the level wind. A light spray of oil over all surfaces will prevent a build-up of corrosion, but don't overdo it so all the parts are soaked and dripping with oil.

Most drags in conventional reels are an asbestos compound of some type. Keep the drag clean and dry—DO NOT LUBRICATE. Before replacing the side plate, lay a bead of grease along the edge to seal out any water or moisture.

Check the handle lock to be sure it is tight. Lightly oil the level wind mechanism. Too much grease will attract salt, sand and grit, so go easy. Remove the left side plate and lightly grease the click mechanism, the level wind gear (if it wasn't on the right side). Lightly spray the inside of the plate and reassemble.

Spray the entire reel with a light coating of oil, wipe dry and you are ready.

LARGER CONVENTIONAL REELS—The larger 3/0 to 9/0 reels are similar to the smaller level wind style reels, but lack the quick take-apart feature of the smaller reels which allows the left side plate to be removed as a unit. If you are new to the servicing the large reels, do not remove the handle assembly. When you remove the screws securing the side plate, the entire gear system and free spool mechanism will remain as an assembled unit. Taking this section apart may cause you problems. Lube all gears and levers, especially the inside of the main gear and inside of the small pinion gear which slides along the spool shaft as the reel is put into free spool.

Re-assemble with a bead of grease along the edge of the side plate.

Service the left side plate just as on the smaller reels. Again, spray the entire reel with a light coating of oil.

After you have put the reel back together after servicing, go over each screw once again to be sure they are tight.

If all this seems too confusing, too much trouble or too complicated, then see your local tackle shop. Virtually every tackle shop along the coast services reels in a professional manner.

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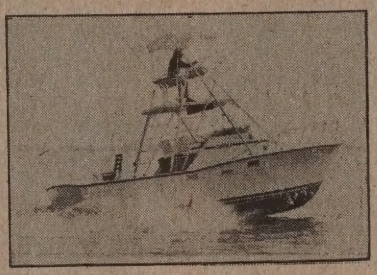

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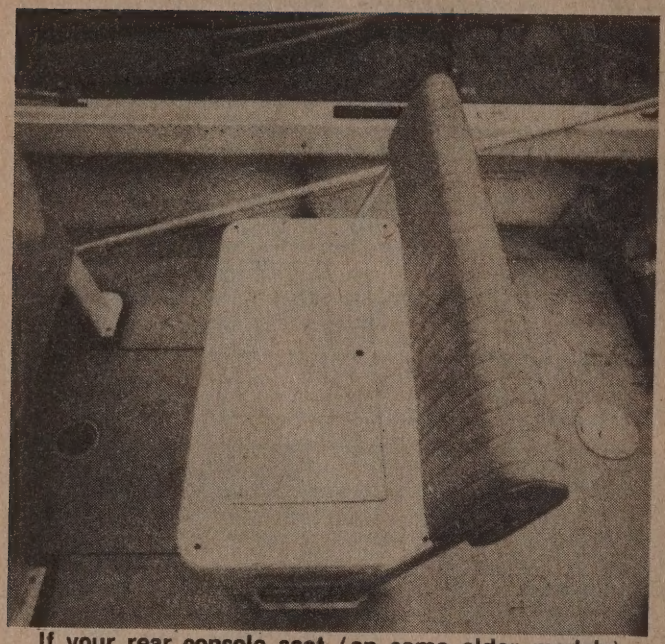
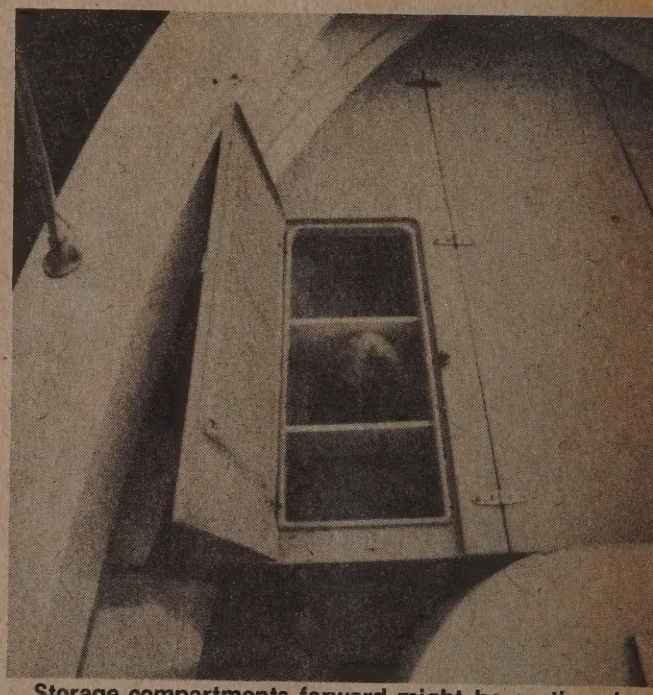
ADDITIONS TO YOUR BOAT

by Tim Coleman

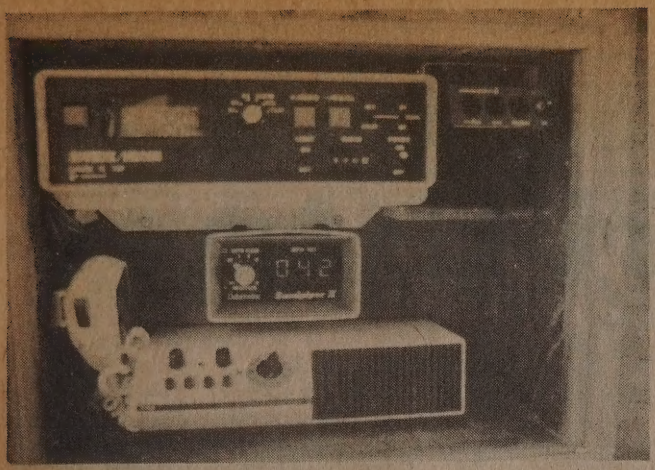


If your rear console seat (on some older models) serves as a fish box, you can put fish in it without removing the top of the seat. Just cut out a section and hinge it as you see here. Some of this work might be best left to a boatyard.



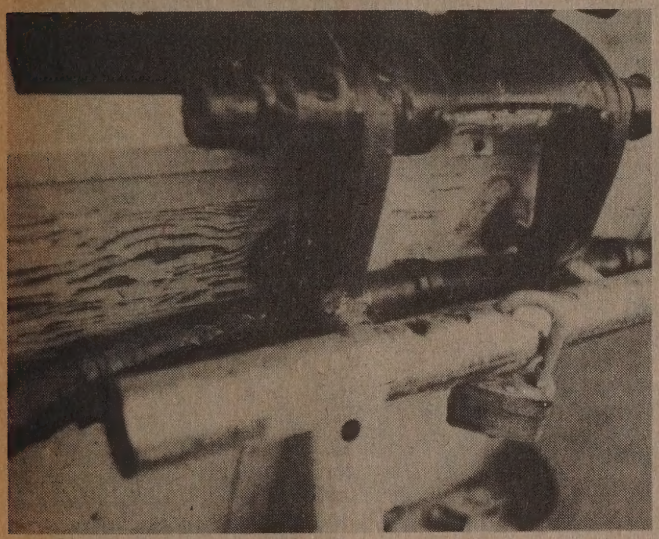
Storage compartments forward might be sectioned off like this to keep tackle separated and readily accessible.

If you are thinking about wind dodger for your center console, you might consider one that will fold down a bit, if you must go under a low bridge at high tide.

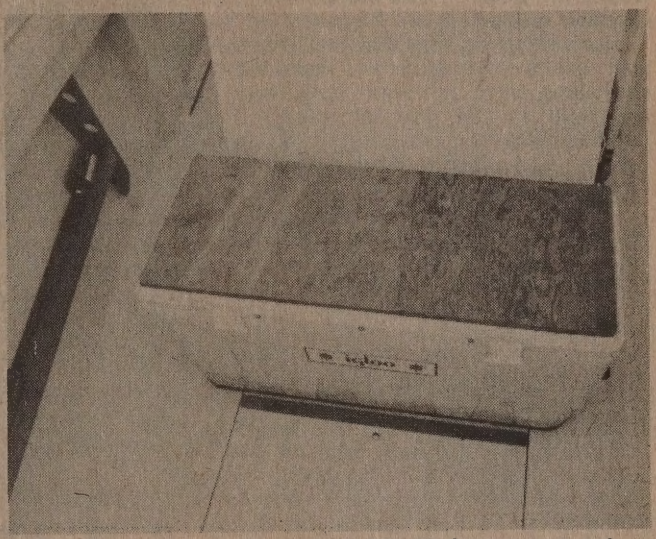


A little woodwork by a boatyard provides a custom interior in a console for most expensive electronics. Black box in the upper right-hand corner is an engine synchronizer for twins.

To keep all honest people away from the electronic goodies shown in preceding photo, this boat owner had a piece of metal fashioned to go across the plexiglass window, where it bolts in place. This is ideal if you are traveling and spend the night away from your boat.

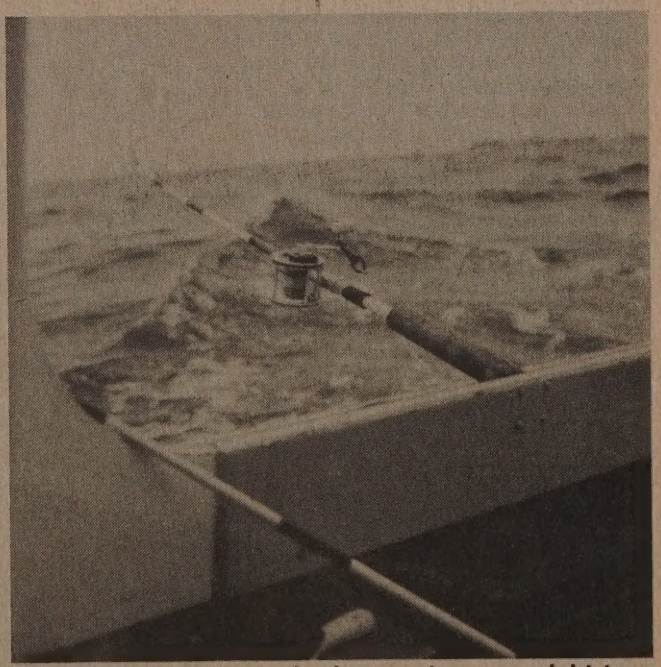


A lock bar on your small outboard keeps all the honest people honest. Just make sure you don't lose the key.



The forward console seat of this 23 footer was cut away, allowing more storage room for, in this case, a large bait cooler with cutting board glued atop it.

A slot was cut out of the rail of this 26 footer for a very handy place to store a gaff at the ready. There's gaffs on both port and starboard sides.



To keep trolling rods above water, you might try a safety line and snap secured to a rod holder.

— ROD BUILDING SERIES —

TOOLS, TRICKS & TIPS

Part Two — *by C. Boyd Pfeiffer*

Decide to take up a hobby and you can usually plan on an outlay of quite a bit of money—just for tools and materials to get started. Artists need extensive art supplies, wood carvers need expensive carving tools plus a stock of wood; and potters need kilns, molds, clay and glazes.

The beginning rod builder, however, needs only the parts to make the rod along with minimal tools and materials. In fact, you can start rod building with no more "tools" than a tea cup, phone book, razor blade and dime store brush.

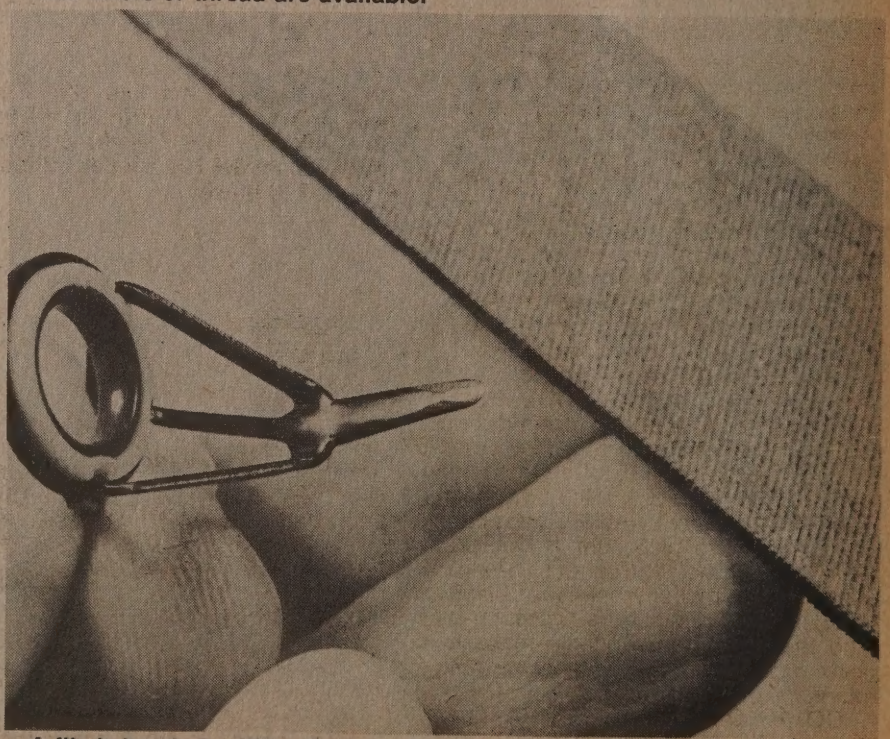
The tea cup and phone book become the rod wrapping and rod tension device. Thus, to wrap or rewrap any rod, you need only drop the spool of thread in the tea cup on the far side of your work table, run the thread through the center of the phone book to create tension, and hold the rod while you wrap the thread in place. To protect the thread wraps from soiling, use several sheets of clean typing paper on each side of the thread as it passes through the phone book. Adjust tension by the position of the thread in the book, or by additional books on top. The tea cup keeps the thread spool from rolling around on the table.

The only additional tools necessary to start rod building are a razor blade to cut the thread as you finish each wrap, and a small brush to coat the thread wraps with color preserver and then with a finish coat of epoxy or rod varnish.

That doesn't mean that additional tools and materials aren't nice to have and helpful in building rods. Some of the tools and techniques of serious and professional rod builders include the following:

GREEN BLOTTER PAPER: While not really a tool, some rod builders, particularly those approaching bifocal age, find the background area behind the immedate rod wrapping station to be distracting and hard on the eyes. One easy way to prevent this is to use a matte finish colored paper as a background. While any color can be used, green or blue are good since they will usually contrast with the rod blank and color wraps that you will be using. For green or blue wraps, it helps to have another sheet of light salmon, beige, etc, but avoid harsh colors like red, purple, fluorescents, black, white, etc.

Rod building can be accomplished with only a few tools including thread, a small brush, a phone book and razor blade. A variety of different sizes and colors of thread are available.



A file is handy for filing the feet of guides as shown to allow for an easy transition of the thread from the blank up onto the guide foot.

MASKING TAPE: Masking tape is handy for lots of rod building tasks and indispensable for serious rod builders. Use the wide tape (1" width is best) available in dime and hardware stores for building up bushings for fitting reel seats on the rod blank. The same tape is also good to completely wrap a reel seat to protect it from scratches while sanding or filing a cork handle to shape. Despite extreme care, it is easy to slip and the anodizing of most freshwater reel seats is easily scratched.

Use small 1/4" masking tape (available from Tackle Crafters) for holding guides in place on the rod blank preparatory to wrapping them. This tape is ideal since it allows the end of the guide foot to be exposed so that you can begin the thread wraps on the guide before removing the tape. This allows you to keep the guide in perfect alignment until the guide is secured by thread.

SCALPEL: Some rod builders like surgeons' scalpels better than a razor blade to cut thread. The choice is yours, but if using a scalpel, be sure to use the disposable blade type which are sharper and don't require constant honing.

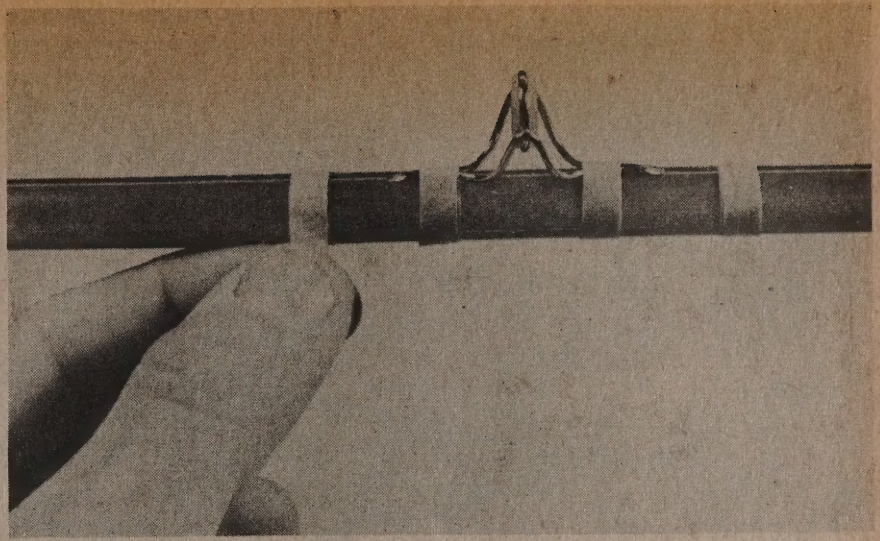
BURNISHER: These small tools are used to push together threads in a guide or decorative wrap when you get a small gap while wrapping. This occurs to everyone, but is easily corrected with one of these tools. Tackle Crafters has a small burnisher (Burnish Master) which makes it possible to push threads, smooth them or adjust thread position in decorative diamond and chevron wraps. Other tools for this purpose include plastic pens, plastic crochet needles, etc. Don't use the point—adjust the threads with the smooth plastic shaft.

ROD WRAPPING TOOL: These are relatively expensive ($40 to $70), but these hand operated tools maintain tension on the thread and also provide support for the rod so that you don't have to hold it during the entire rod wrapping process. As a result, they make rod building far easier and quickly amortize their cost for the rod builder making several or more rods each year. Sources for these include Dale Clemens and the Tackle Crafters Rod Master which has smooth thread control and rollers for the rod blank to prevent scratches or damage.

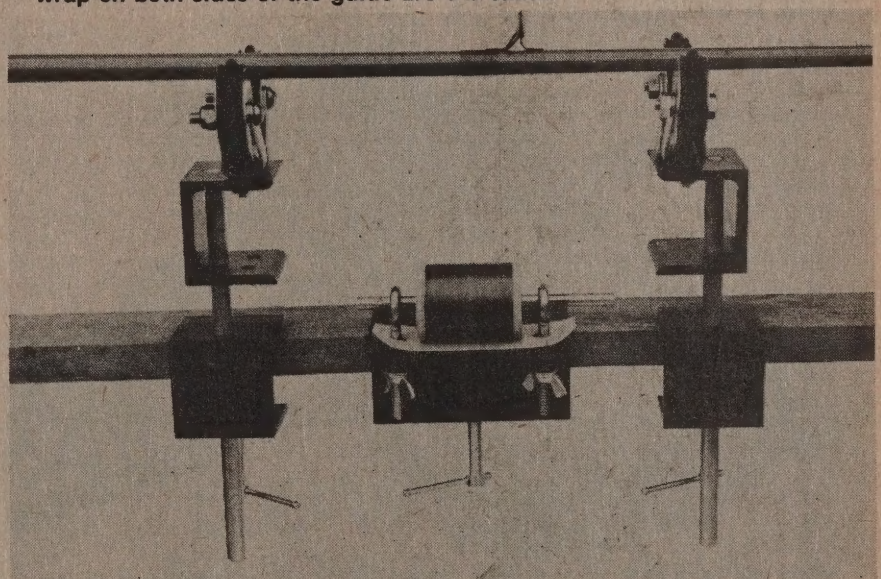
HYPALON SEATING TOOL: Both Clemens and Tackle Crafters have these (Tackle Crafters calls their Grip Master). They are basically boards with different size holes through which the resilient synthetic grips can be pushed into place on the blank. Since the synthetic grips must have a hole sized smaller than the blank diameter, lubrication is necessary, and these inexpensive tools make it easy to push the grip down on any size blank.

CORK GLUING CLAMP: The clamps are also available from both

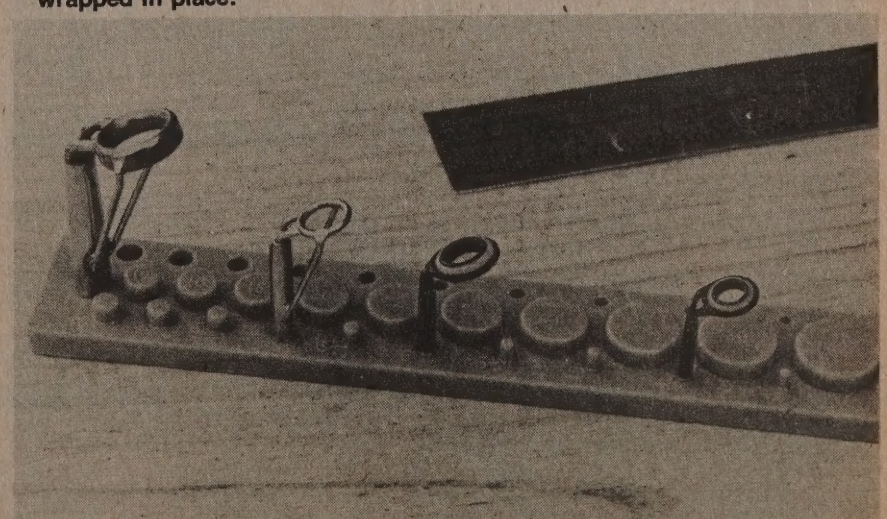
(Continued on next page.)



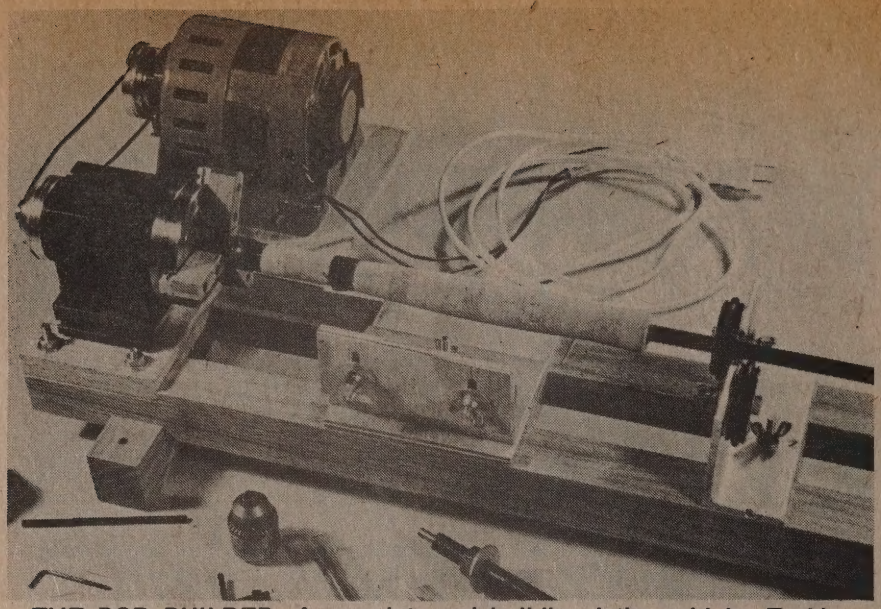
Masking tape in small 1/4" size is handy for laying out and placing guides for wrapping. Note that the guide is held in place with the end of the feet exposed so that the wrap can be begun on the guide foot. Also, masking tape is used to mark the measured end of the wrap so that each wrap on both sides of the guide are the same.



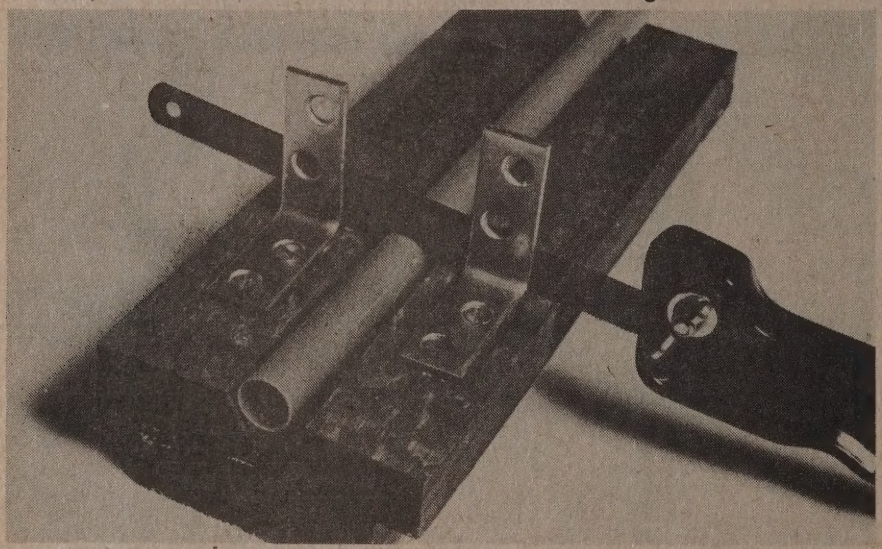
Rod wrapping tools like this Tackle Crafters Rod Master are not necessary to rod building, but are handy for the rod builder making more than one rod. Rod Master provides constant thread tension and this improved model has rubber rollers for the rod to ride on as guides are wrapped in place.



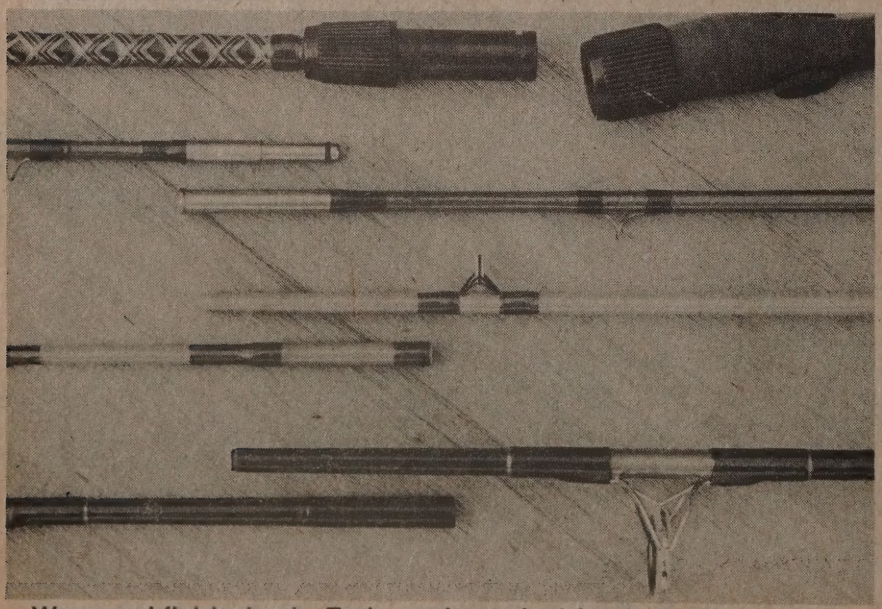
Tip-top gauge like this is handy for serious rod builders to check ferrules, tip-top sizes, etc.



THE ROD BUILDER. A complete rod building lathe sold by Tackle Crafters, makes it possible to perform all lathe operation rod building tasks, as well as make lures and do other woodworking.



Mitre Master makes it possible to cut rod blanks at any point from the tip or butt end, to modify action or length in any rod blank. Often used by custom rod builders.



Wraps and finished rods. Tools aren't required for these, but do make rod building more fun and easier.

Tackle Crafters and Clemens, and they are basically like a long adjustable vise which can be adjusted to clamp the cork rings in place when making up handles from individual cork rings. While not completely necessary for one or two rods, they do help to give professional results for serious builders. Adjustments are usually possible for grips from 4'' to 24'' in length, making this one tool ideal for all rod building.

LATHE: Tackle Crafters has a new lathe, called **The Rod Builder** which serves as a complete professional lathe for making rod handles, shaping grips, turning wood boat handles, making wood inserts for fly rod reel seats, etc., and in addition serves as a professional lathe for general wood work or making fishing plugs. While expensive ($150 to $300, depending upon the setup desired), they are ideal for the professional, custom rod builder, club use and serious builders and tackle tinkerers.

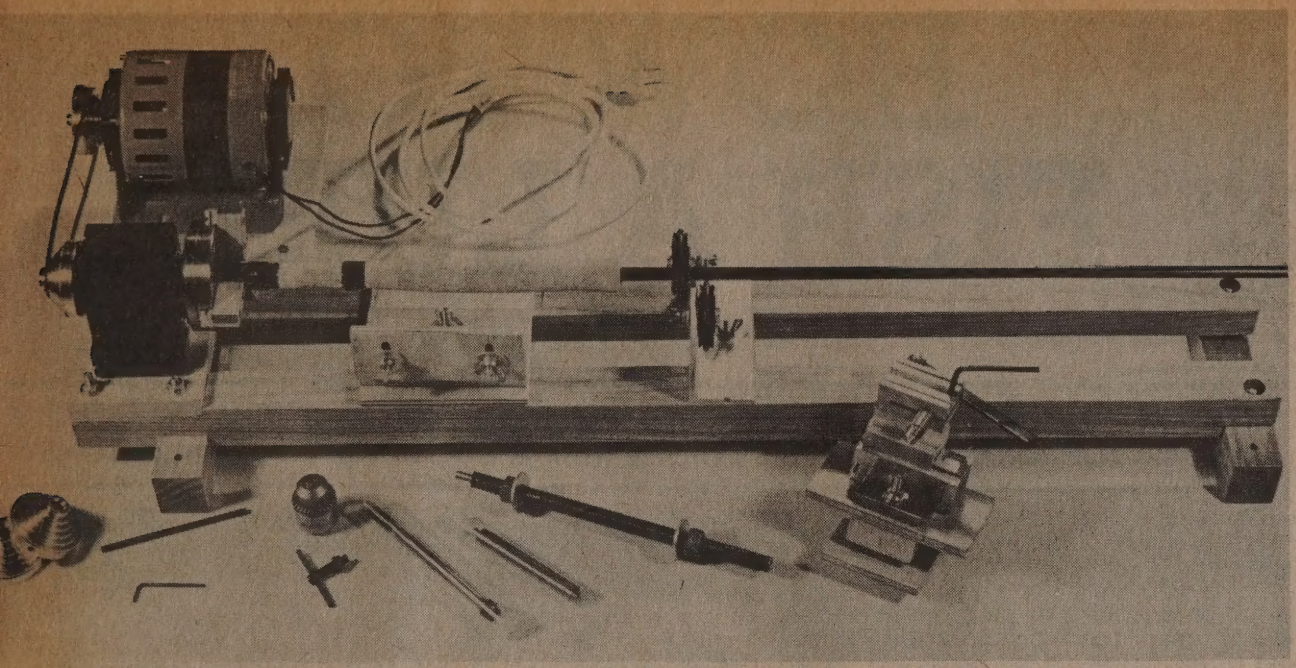
RASP, RATTAIL FILE, FILE, AND SANDPAPER: You'll need these only if you are going to make handles or cork rings or pre-formed cork. The rattail file will be necessary to ream out cork rings or cork grips to fit the blank, while the other tools and sandpaper will help to shape handles after they are glued in place on the blank.

DECORATIVE ROD WRAP TOOLS: Both Tackle Crafters and Dale Clemens have these. They are designed to help positioning and spacing of the initial thread in decorative wraps such as diamonds, chevrons, checkerboards, double diamonds, double chevrons, etc. Both are simple to use and shorten the time to get accurate, detailed decorative wraps. Tackle Crafters has both the Diamond Master to lay out such wraps, and also the Diamond Mate, to check initial thread wraps for proper, precise alignment.

BLANK CUTTING TOOLS: Tackle Crafters sells a Mitre Master which consists of a special ''V'' block mitre box and fine tooth saw for making exact cuts when ''chopping'' blanks from the tip or butt end to adjust length, action, power, etc. Many custom rod builders do this, enabling them to use one type of blank for several different types of finished rods.

CURING DEVICE: Tackle Crafters two years ago originated the Cure Master, which consists of a slow rpm motor with a universal chuck to hold any size or type of rod and rotate it to allow the heavy, thick epoxy rod finishes to level and form a smooth glass-like finish. The rod butt fits into the universal chuck. An extra support stand provided with the Cure Master supports the other end of the rod while it turns for several hours as the finish cures.

Additional materials required by rod builders include color preserver (to protect the thread color from changing when finished), rod finish (varnish or epoxy rod finish to protect



Same as pictured left, different view, showing all options available with THE ROD BUILDER.

e wraps), glue (to glue the handle d reel seat parts on the rod blank), rrule cement (to glue tiptops on eshwater rods), and thread in your oice of size and color for wrapping e guides in place.

It's important to realize that all of ese materials are amortized over e cost of several rods, and even ough they are all inexpensive, the cost is even lower when you figure that all materials will last for a number of rod building projects.

Also, while tools are nice to have, make rod building easier, and help to give more professional results, they are not necessary and should only be considered if you are serious about rod building, or do enough of it to justify their initial expense. As with gadgets for fishing, there is no end of them available for rod building, but as in fishing, they are only useful if used, and if necessary for your rod building requirements. Keep it simple, and you can't go wrong—and the tools are always there to be ordered when you need them.

NEXT WEEK: Choosing Rod Parts For Your Rod.

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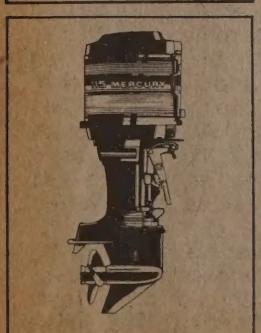
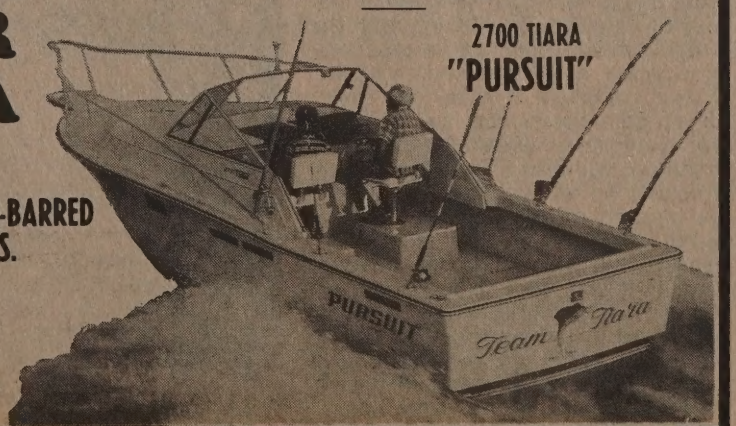


TIARA BUILDS NO-HOLDS-BARRED FISHING MACHINES.

•••••

COME SEE THESE BOATS & BE CONVINCED!



HOW TO FISH A LURE

by Andy Regina

"...if you don't get that lure into the strike zone, you are not going to catch very many fish, it's as simple as that."

As a fisherman, I have always felt that I knew everything there was to know about how to properly fish any lure. And, as an outdoor writer who only writes about fishing in particular, I also felt that I had explained proper lure fishing techniques to a tee, many times over, and in many articles. Then along comes a pamphlet issued by the makers of those famous Rebel plugs, and it made me realize that I had hardly scratched the surface in both instances—either in knowing everything about lure fishing techniques or writing about same. This pamphlet, entitled "Rebel Test Report No. 10," is free for the asking, simply by writing and requesting same. Submit your request to: Rebel Lures Division, Plastics Research and Development Corp., 3601 Jenny Lind Road, P.O. Box 1587, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902; Attention Mr. Pat Metzker, Public Relations.

Basically, the text breaks down the art of fishing artificial lures into four distinct and separate categories: color, size, depth, and speed. I will attempt to explain each category as best as I can and will further include artificial lures other than plugs in my discussion; lures we all use at some time or other on the saltwater scene.

The first category for thought is color, and this is the one category in which we have the greatest control. Here the choice is always uniquely yours. You and you alone must decide what pattern you think will produce the best results for you at every separate trip. Here smart fishing sense is imperative; knowledge of the body of water you are fishing and the forage available therein is essential information, as are the feeding habits of each particular species you seek. As you gain experience, you will find that changes in weather and water conditions will also affect your choice of colors. As an example, if bluefish are herding mossbunker up on top, you'd probably opt for a silvery-colored, big swimming or floating plug. If it is a dark, cloudy day, or you're fishing murky water such as that found in the western end of the Sound, you might discover that a dark back or body often elicits more strikes than light colors. By the same token, if striped bass are feeding on

One of Tom Mann's new Stickleback plugs; this one's a topwater lure.

Two of our favorite light-tackle topwater lures: the 3½" Rebel Jointed Minnow and the 2½" Rebel Popper.

REBEL RUNNING DEPTH TEST RESULTS

	LURE	8 POUND TEST	12 POUND TEST	17 POUND TEST
SHALLOW RUNNERS	Teeny-R	4¾ ft.	4½ ft.	3¾ ft.
	Wee-R	6½ ft.	6½ ft.	5 ft.
	Mini-R	8 ft.	7½ ft.	7 ft.
	Maxi-R	9 ft.	8 ft.	7½ ft.
	Humpback	3½ ft.	2¼ ft.	2½ ft.
	Shallow-R	5 ft.	3¼ ft.	3½ ft.
	Shallow-R (large)	6¼ ft.	5¾ ft.	4½ ft.
	Alewife/Shad	5½ ft.	5¼ ft.	4 ft.
	Minnow (3½")	3½ ft.	2½ ft.	2 ft.
	Minnow (4½")	3½ ft.	2¾ ft.	2¼ ft.
DEEP RUNNERS	Deep Teeny-R	7½ ft.	7½ ft.	5½ ft.
	Deep Wee-R	9¼ ft.	8½ ft.	7 ft.
	Deep Mini-R	10¼ ft.	9½ ft.	9 ft.
	Deep Maxi-R	11 ft.	11 ft.	10¼ ft.
	Deep Humpback	7¼ ft.	6½ ft.	6½ ft.
	Super-R	8 ft.	7¼ ft.	6¾ ft.
	Small Suspend-R	7¾ ft.	7½ ft.	6½ ft.
	Suspend-R	9¾ ft.	9½ ft.	8½ ft.
	Spoonbill Minnow (3½")	7¾ ft.	6½ ft.	6 ft.
	Spoonbill Minnow (4½")	9¼ ft.	8½ ft.	7½ ft.
	Spoonbill Minnow (5½")	9¼ ft.	8½ ft.	7 ft.
	Spoonbill Minnow (7")	11¼ ft.	9½ ft.	10 ft.
NEW REBELS	SupraNatural Bass	10½ ft.	9½ ft.	8½ ft.
	SupraNatural Perch	10½ ft.	9½ ft.	8½ ft.
	SupraNatural Bream	8½ ft.	8 ft.	7¾ ft.
	SupraNatural Crappie	8½ ft.	8 ft.	7¾ ft.
	SupraNatural Crawdad	9¼ ft.	8¾ ft.	8½ ft.
	Super Teeny-R	This lure runs 4½ ft. deep on 4 pound test line.		

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Depths recorded are maximum depths attained during series of at least five casts. Upon review of the chart one will notice some lures running the same depth on different test line.

This discrepency may be charged to the human variation of retrieve. You may expect the same responses during the course of a day's fishing.

Test results, reprinted through courtesy of Rebel Lures.

mackerel at mid-depths, perhaps a mackerel-finished, deep-running plug would be a wise choice.

Size is another area that offers you a great deal of control, though not the total control that color offers. Here, however, any mistake in the size you select could create a greater problem than choosing a color could. If the bait that predators are feeding upon is small, such as spearing, they may not pay too much attention to a plug that is very large. If, however, you have selected the correct size, or matched the hatch (so to speak), you can very often score with any one of several colors. Here again, two schools of thought seem to predominate: the purist insists on exact bait-size duplication, while the rebel (pardon the pun) argues that a larger lure will attract greater attention, thus elicit more strikes, simply because it does not get lost in the crowd, so to speak. Also, it has been argued that smaller lures catch more fish than larger lures catch. We have held to that belief personally, because of some amazing catches made on tiny lures when larger sizes failed us. There are, however, a few very positive characteristics that larger, deep-diving plugs could give you in your pursuit of piscatorial pleasure. The most important characteristic obtained via this disparity is depth.

Depth is extremely important, if not THE most important characteristic of any lure. You might select the correct color and figure out the exact size of prevalent bait, but if you don't get that lure into the strike zone, you just are not going to catch very many fish. It's a simple as that. The people at

(Continued on page 54.)

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BOAT SH

by Bo

Boat show season is coming! Between January and March, major and minor boat shows will be opening their doors in many cities. This is a good time to say some useful things about the subject.

The basic idea of boat shows is to put a large selection of the marine industry's products under one roof, so that prospective purchasers can see what's available with a minimum of chasing around. Saves time and gasoline. But as the sport of boating has grown, so has the number of shows. In some cities or counties there are two or three each year.

Some say there are now too many boat shows. People in the marine industry agree with them. It isn't possible for every company to stand the outgo in both money and time that is necessary to appear at many shows. When competing shows end up by having too few exhibits and too low attendance figures, both the industry and its customers are cheated.

It's necessary for boating enthusiasts to understand a basic fact. Putting on a large boat show is an enormous undertaking. Boat shows don't just happen, they are the result of much planning. Entrepreneurs form corporations for the specific purpose of putting on boat shows, and spend the time between annual shows tending to the variety of details involved: renting an auditorium, insurance, police and fire protec parking, dealing with food co sionaires, decorations, adverti laying out booth spaces and fi exhibitors to rent the spaces to, you-name-it.

Just as anyone is at liberty u the free enterprise system to st boat-building business or ma dealership, so anyone is at liber try to make his living by managi boat show. If there are too factories or dealers in an area, awhile the weaker ones will dro of the business. Same applies to shows. If it seems that there ar many boat shows, all we can wait.

In the meantime, the thing to choose which show or shows to at wisely.

Not all boat shows are alike. I look around you will realize that s seem to cater chiefly to yac people, while others seem to top-heavy with displays of intere performance powerboat enthusi and others are strong on fis boats. This is hardly surprising. A show put on or in close to a cent sailing and yachting interes naturally going to attract a lo exhibitors who are going after segment of the market. A show pu some distance from big water, near a popular fishing area, is like have a large percentage of fis

OW TIME

/hittier

oats on display. So, choose your how with a little thought to these ctors.

The elaborate displays set up by ajor marine manufacturing compan- s are expensive to design, build and hip around the country. So if some g company whose products interest ou does not display at the smaller how you chance to attend, it does not ean they are not interested in your usiness. It simply means that they n't spread themselves too thin and ey know this.

Exhibit spaces at boat shows are nted to companies in the marine usiness—that is one way in which a oat show corporation earns money to ay its own not inconsiderable perating expenses. At so many llars a square foot, space to exhibit roducts adds up. Then boats and otors have to be hauled into the uditorium and put in position, people ave to be lined up to staff the booths, nd hotel rooms rented for them to ay in. Because of the rather rmidable expenses, companies tend put on display their big-ticket ems, in hopes of selling enough rge and fancy merchandise to coup their substantial outlay.

So if you don't see large numbers of naller, lower-priced boats, don't say Hell, there's nothing here for me!" nd walk out. Talk to sales persons at l booths that appear to be selling boats in the general size and types you are interested in. Ask them what they have in stock at their establishments that might be more to your liking. This can lead you to the type of boats you want to see. A boat show is not just a place to gawk at splendid and flashy merchandise—it is also a place to make contacts, to learn things and to pick up useful literature. It's up to you to choose your shows wisely and to tour them with some sort of game plan in mind.

Here are the dates and places for the leading boat shows that will be held in the northeast this winter:

Jan. 14-24, National Boat Show, The Coliseum, New York City.

Jan. 27-31, Rhode Island Boat Show, Civic Center, Providence.

Jan. 30-Feb. 7, Atlantic City Boat Show, Convention Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Feb. 3-7, Boston Boat Show, Hynes Auditorium, Boston, Mass.

Feb. 4-7, Conn. Marine Trades Assn. Boat Show, Civic Center, Hartford, CT

Feb. 6-14, Philadelphia Boat Show, Civic Auditorium, Phila., Pa.

Feb. 13-21, Long Island Boat Show, Nassau Coliseum

Feb. 13-21, Chesapeake Bay Boat Show, Baltimore Convention Center.

Feb. 20-28, Commonwealth Pier Boat Show, Boston, Mass.

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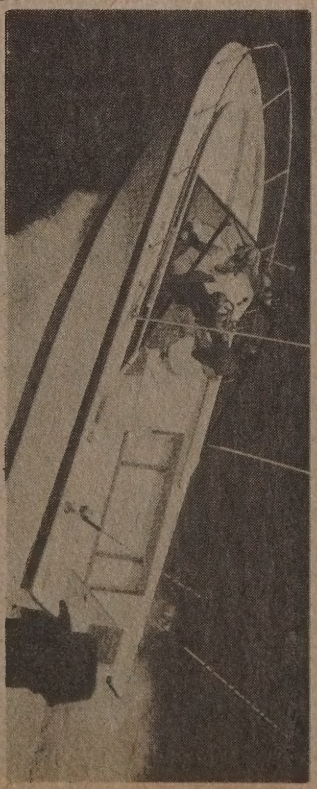

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AVAILABLE I/B, O/B & I/O

ON THE CARE AND CLEANING OF FISH

by Matt Ahern

A veteran angler lectures on the dos and don'ts of caring for your catch.

Rushing the season? Perhaps. But not by much. Here it is, the middle of January and I'll admit spring certainly seems a long way off. But is it really? Eight short weeks from now will be good old St. Patrick's Day, the traditional start of our spring flounder season. And if we're lucky, and if the weather gives us a break, I'm sure there will be some of us who will have scored before then. So who says I'm rushing the season?

Okay, we've got eight weeks in which to while away our time. Are you as a dedicated fisherman, going to become a slave to TV, or are you going to spend that time learning something constructive about the fishing game? If TV is your game, God bless; but if you want to start out the new season in better shape than you ended it, pay heed, for along with fish-cleaning and such, I have a project that will help you do just that.

First, let's tackle the art of fish cleaning. And proper fish cleaning is an art—don't let anyone tell you differently. If you don't believe this, just recall how many times you've heard of a day's catch winding up in the swill pail simply because by the time it arrived home it was unfit for human consumption.

And the sad part is it was all unnecessary. Fish cleaning and taking proper care of your catch is easy. They only become difficult when heavy-handed methods are used.

Sure, I know that when watching party boat mates and other skilled fishermen breeze through a mess of fish with skilled precision, you think you could never master their technique. Pure unadulterated nonsense. All you need is that willingness to learn. Once learned, these skills are never forgotten. Why, you might even find you enjoy it.

It may seem odd to say, but I've noticed that those of us who enjoy fish cleaning, or at least accept it as part of the fishing game, do catch more fish. Perhaps the knowledge of being able to follow the sport from beginning to end gives these fishermen the incentive to become better anglers. Perhaps it is psychological; I don't know. But I suspect it is so.

To begin with, it's extremely important that proper care of your fish be considered from the moment it is unhooked to the moment it is placed on the cleaning board. Don't, I beg of you, ignore this important fact. Freshly-caught fish have an ambrosia-like flavor that is soon lost through improper care. The difference between these fish and those carelessly handled can only be likened to the difference between night and day.

It is quite possible to catch fish in early morning and by noontime have them become a smelly mess. During cooler months this problem is minimal, but during summer's blazing heat precautions to avoid spoiling of the catch must be taken. Keep in mind that freshly-caught fish deteriorate rapidly—this is even noticeable on mild winter days.

It would be foolish to suggest cleaning each fish as it's caught. Therefore, when conditions warrant, as when skiff fishing, you should consider placing your fish in an ice chest containing a good-sized piece of ice, or a well-covered chunk of dry ice.

Place your fish temporarily in a large plastic bag as you catch them. Then, and only then, should you place those fish directly on the ice. That melting ice water will quickly turn any unprotected fish into a slimy mess.

You can learn how to clean fish with the skill of a party boat mate.

Not only that, you'll have the des
own time removing that slime. A w
to the wise is sufficient.

While we're on this all-import
subject, never place fish in a
container of water—especially in
summer! The water will quickly it
up, often exceeding the outside
temperature, and when this happ
the fish soon die and you'll be
guaranteed fish which are partially or
totally cooked. This is the main reason
many fish wind up in that swill pail.
Better to keep those fish in a
dampened burlap bag, or something
equally as porous. Keep it damp and
out of the sun. The fish will remain
cool by the process of evaporation.

Now for that project to keep you
busy over the winter. I'll have to be
honest, though, and tell you this
works best for skiff fishermen.

All you need do is construct a
live-fish box and your problems are
over. When this is hung overboard,
the fish will be found to be just as
frisky at the end of the day's fishing
as when first caught. I made one
years ago and wouldn't be without
it—especially when fluke fishing.

Such a box is easy to make. Mine is
made of 1x12'' pine sheathing. Its
dimensions are 18x12x12''. The
bottom is made from a piece of 1/2''
hardware cloth, held in place by
1/2x3/4'' pine strips. The brass-
hinged top is eight inches long and
centered. The locking arrangement is
a medium-sized brass hasp; you can
use any kind of gadget you dream up
to hold the lid closed. All fastenings
should be copper, brass or aluminum.

You can make your box any
convenient-to-handle size you wish, of
course. It is well worth the effort.
Paint it a bright color, but not green
or white. Should the box accidentally
float away, these two colors may make
it quite difficult to see—especially if
the day is windy.

Fasten the box securely, preferably
on the opposite side to which you are
fishing. You don't want it in your way
when netting a good-sized fish. It's
also a good idea to lift the box inboard
each time you put a fish in; fluke,
especially, have a cute trick of
breaking free from the fisherman's
grasp. If you land a fluke larger than
the box can accommodate (you lucky
guy!), use that dampened burlap bag.

Now for fish cleaning.

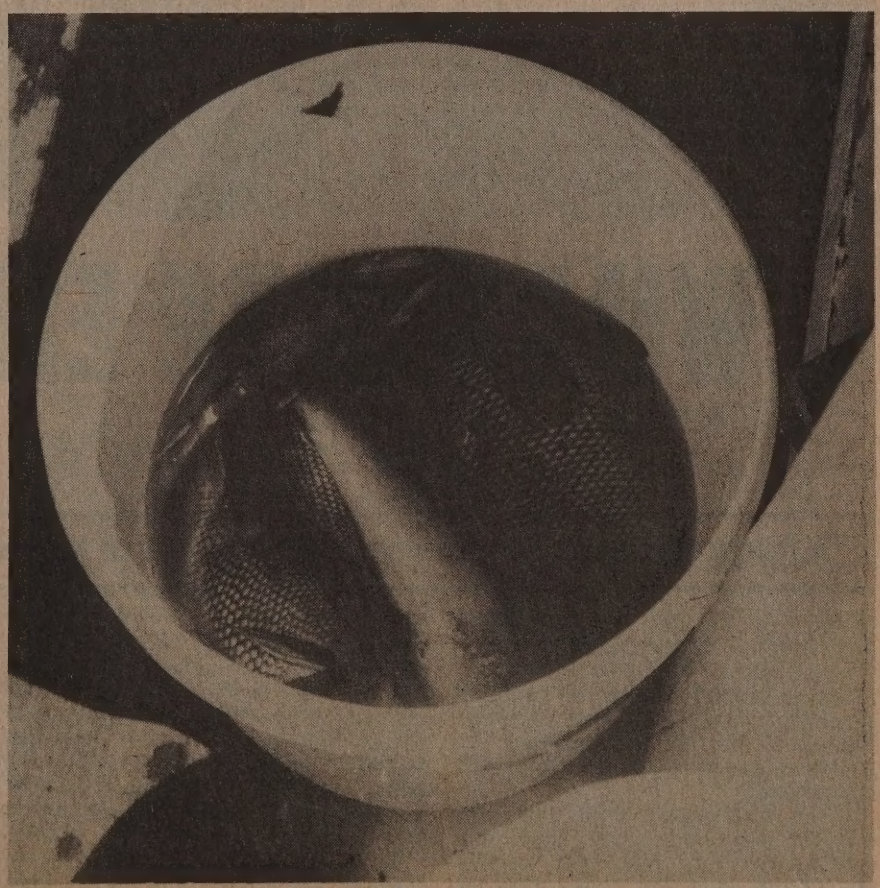
Many fishing stations have fish-
cleaning tables and running water for
their patrons' use. If yours does, take
advantage of it. It's much better than
picking scales and assorted offal from
the kitchen table, chairs, etc. You
know who will like the idea, too.

There are about as many ways to
clean fish as there are to skin the
proverbial cat. The following is the
way I clean all round fish: round fish
meaning any fish but fluke or
flounder. Those I always fillet.

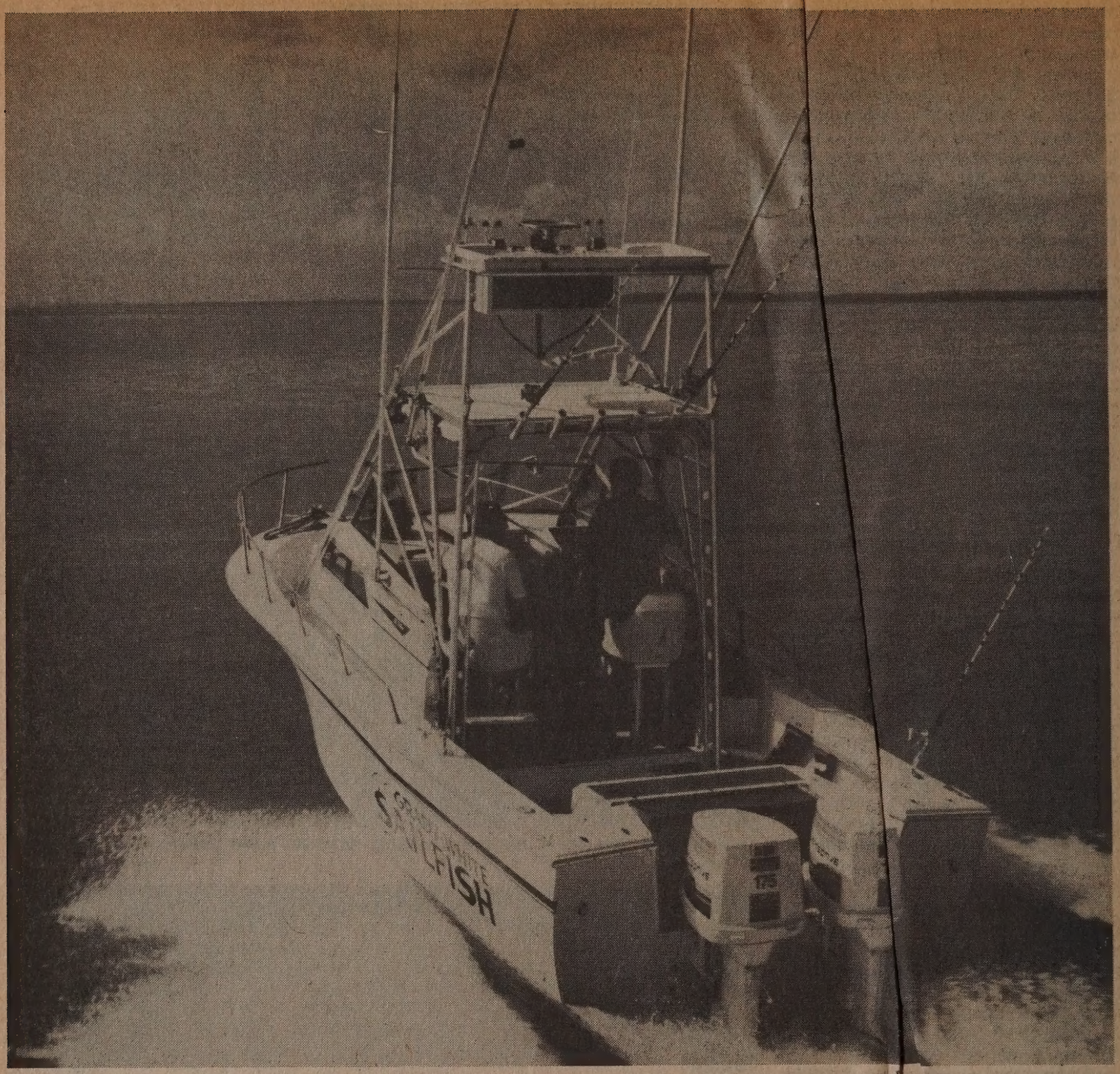
Only two tools are needed to do a
fast, efficient job: a good scaler,
preferably with an offset handle to

(Continued on page 56.)

Whenever possible, use the cleaning facilities provided by your fishing station.



Keeping your catch in water is strictly a no-no.



WHAT SIZE ENGINE?

by Pete Barrett

A hasty decision can cost you a pocketful of ten dollar bills in wasted fuel.

Most of us who fish from boats pay more attention to the boat itself when we pick out a new fishing machine. Prime considerations are rod storage, console or dash design, fish box size, the vee of the hull and locations for the new electronics we are sure to add immediately

Often overlooked until the last minute, just before you sign the contract for your new boat, is the question of what size power plant is going to hang on the back of your new rig:

Perhaps you may make a hasty decision based on rumors your buddy told you last week at the bar after work about how "smaller engines get better fuel economy" or perhaps someone else tells you "bigger is better" because it won't have to work as hard to get the same speed as a smaller engine.

Both solutions to the engine problem are correct if plugged into the right information so the engine balances with your h design, the weight of the boat and e weight of you and the gear you m bring along with you.

There is a method to e madness of seemingly endless co inations of outboards to choose fr . All you have to do is plug in so accurate numbers into a simple mula and you can quickly and easil determine the true horsepower nee of your new boat.

Simply add up the total eight of

the boat and divide that total by a factor of 30 for shallow draft boats and a factor of 25 for deeper vee boats. The result will be a very close estimate of your horsepower needs.

A shallow draft boat will have less hull drag as it passes through the water and to compensate for this, the 30 factor will give you a more accurate horsepower estimate. With a deep vee there will be more hull in the water as you run and therefore more hull drag, so the 25 factor compensates in calculating the best horsepower rating for this type hull.

To see how easy the formula works, let's take my 23 Mako. Here's a breakdown of the total weight of the boat and gear:

HULL	2500 lbs.
FUEL*	1200 lbs.
ENGINE	600 lbs.
ACC GEAR	600 lbs.
PEOPLE	600 lbs.
TOTAL	5500 lbs.

***Fuel weighs approximately 60 lbs. per 7.5 gallons.**

That boat is a deep vee, so I divide the 5500 lbs. by the 25 factor and get an answer of 220. The actual engine I used is a Mercury rated at 225 h.p.

Maximum fuel economy will come at engine speeds between 3800 and 4200 RPMs with the engine propped to peak at about 5500 RPMs, I run about 20 offshore shark trips in June and July and rarely ever burn more than 36 gallons of fuel for an 80 miles round trip, and usually I burn even less than that. I've run with other anglers who had boats that burned half again more fuel than I did for the same distance and same average speed.

Let's look at another boat as an example of a bad choice of engine horsepower. A buddy has a lightweight hull and his total weight with three fishermen, fuel, engine, and all extra gear is only 4400 lbs. With the deep vee design he should divide that weight by the factor of 25, coming up with an approximate horsepower recommendation of 175. Unfortunately he chose a 235 h.p. Evinrude. He can't get the boat to throttle down so he can run at a steady 3800 to 4200 RPM range and consequently burns over 42 gallons on each shark trip. I've seen days when he put over 50 gallons of fuel in the tank while my rig burned only 30 gallons!

At first, my friend unfairly blamed the engine. It wasn't the engine at all, except for the fact it was too many horses for the weight of the boat. He dropped down to a 175 h.p. Evinrude for the start of last season and the difference in fuel consumption was amazing. He now burns between 30 and 36 gallons per shark trip.

As fishermen, we are usually more concerned with running a smooth boat, not in blistering speed. That previous example with too large an engine would have been a water skier's delight, having clocked the boat over a measured mile at nearly 50 miles an hour! The smaller engine still cranks the boat up to about 35 to 40 miles an hour, yet runs supremely better on a sustained run to a bluefish ridge or a sharking area.

It is important to keep in mind that these estimates are just that—estimates. You must take into account several other factors about how you fish and where you fish. If you calculate your estimated horsepower by adding up the weight of your boat when you go weakfishing and take along only a box of bucktails as extra weight, you may be disappointed in your boat's performance when you load it down with a bunker tank or three buckets of chum and four buddies for a bluefish trip. Figure the maximum weight to be on the safe side.

If you run to distant waters where there is a chance for rough seas and a long ride back home, you may want to go slightly over the estimated rating to give additional power for safety when running rough water. The larger engine will give you a bit more momentum as you run into seas, or more prop power to maneuver in a following sea.

It only takes a few minutes to figure the best engine for your new boat, or as a new power plant for your old boat. Those few minutes can add a pocketful of ten dollar bills in fuel savings if you pick the right engine.

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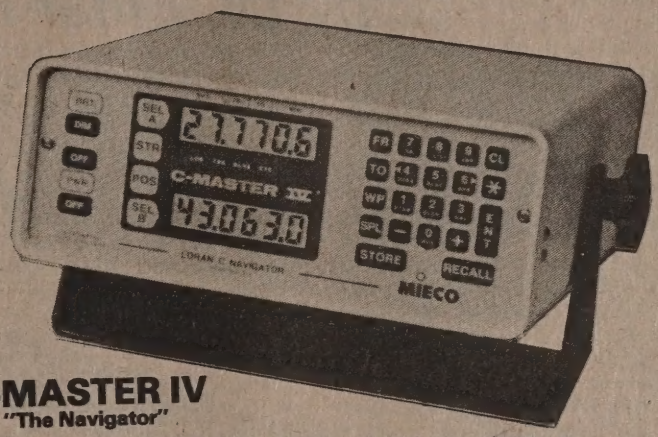

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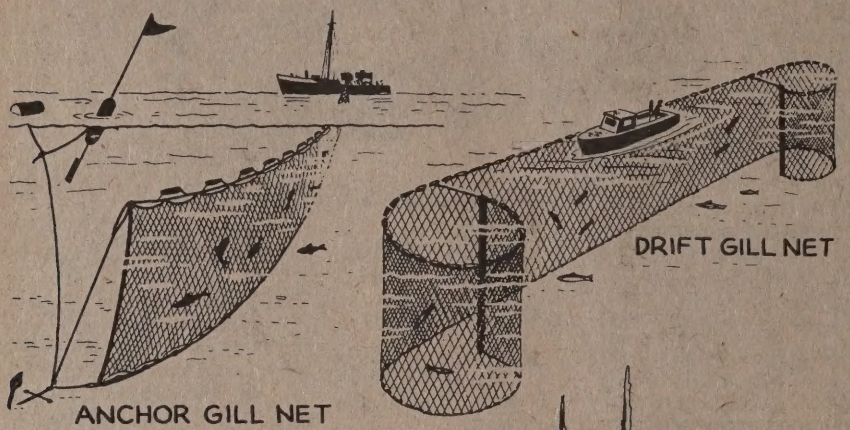
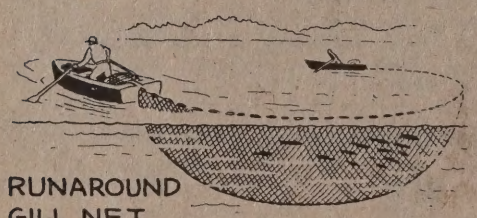
AGAINST GILL NETS:

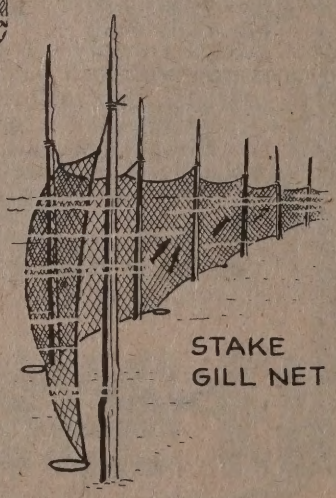
"GHOST FISHERMEN"

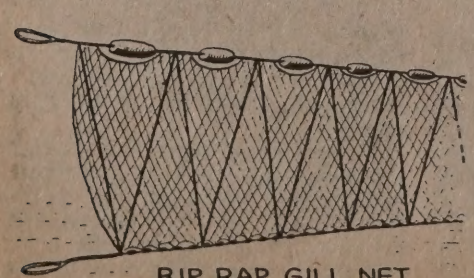
by Dr. Einar F. Grell

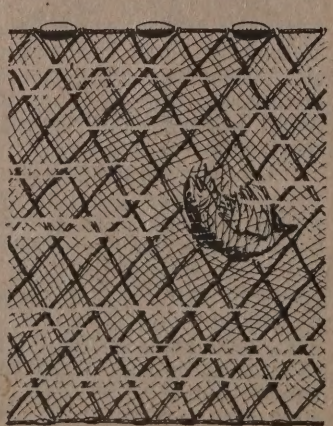
In speaking with fish researchers recently about gill netting and its deleterious effects upon the living communities within our seas and coastal waters, I was told that "gill netting as a type of fishing is just a drop in the bucket compared with other types of fishing within the industry." This statement was made by an official from the marine fisheries who told me that this past year 260 million fish were caught in gill nets compared to a total catch of 4.8 billion fish caught overall. This official told me to take my calculator and compute what percentage relative to 4.8 billion fish caught is the amount taken by gill nets. I made the calculation and—lo and behold, the figure was a very small one. The only problem with this figure was the fact that it only revealed a rough percentage of the estimated fish that were caught. What was missing was the deleterious effects of gill nets that escaped from their owners as well as those gill nets that are indiscriminately employed by many non-professional fishermen interested in making a quick additional supplement to their regular paycheck.











After a very lengthy discussion with this marine fisheries expert it was very obvious that many researchers, conservationists and fishery experts have not taken the time or trouble to consider the detrimental effects of gill netting. In their eyes gill netting is looked upon as an insignificant industry, not worthy of further study, limits or government controls. If these people had looked underwater at these webs of death and had observed the wide variety of dead fish in stages of decomposition they would have second thoughts about this problem. I have witnessed time and time again in lost gill nets literally tons of fish that will never arrive at the meal table. I have witnessed gill nets in our coastal waters loaded with rotting fish. For one reason or another the owners did not have time to empty them.

Many Long Island and New England skin and scuba divers have seen this merciless spectacle of fish gilled and suffocated. Many times these gilled fish are in the fourth and fifth day of decay as the nets drift slowly along—miles from where the owner set it. Any fisherman who pursues the denizens of the deep with rod and reel has undoubtedly run in to these cordons of death which, more often than not, are unmarked in our waters, especially after storms and rough seas. More than once while trolling in Long Island Sound or along the South Shore, I have run into these nets and have had to untangle my motor from disheveled mesh which revealed hundreds of dead fish in varied stages of bacterial decomposition. How come these nets were never emptied? Who owns them?

Gill nets are not an uncommon

sight, snagged or harnessed by protruding encumbrances of sunken ships or by pieces of rough ocean bottom. Others are torn loose from their moorings by strong tides, storms, winds and currents. Many fishermen conscious of the conservation and preservation of our natural environment are asking "Why does the fishing industry encourage gill net fishing?" It's quite apparent that this is a non-selective method of catching fish. What's more, when a net breaks loose and cannot be recovered it becomes a lethal snare and trap for fish and small mammals. Even under a fisherman's control these nets remain non-selective death traps.

A gill net fisherman explained to me "the kinds of fish we catch depend on the size of the mesh in our nets. Yeah, we get some predators and scavengers, too." I asked him about fish dying in the nets. He replied, "Sure, they'll die in our nets. Fish will suffocate and spoil in the nets if too much net is set out and water temperatures aren't cold enough to prevent spoilage. In the summer in areas where water temperatures are in the sixties to low seventies, the nets have to be tended daily or there is lots of spoilage. In cold waters like New England where I used to net before I found employment on Long Island, I used to set as much as twenty miles of gill nets from my boat. I used to lift eight to ten miles of nets a day. Gill netting ain't too good there now, so I just do it here part-time to pick up a few bucks."

When this gill netter mentioned what he used to do with nets I couldn't help but think of the other ten miles of nets that went unattended until the next. How many small fish suffocated to death during this period of time. The thought of a storm occurring between net hauls presented a nightmare to me.

I asked this gill netter how many pounds of fish a gill netter could take per day. His response, "Well, that could range from 50 to 2,000 lbs. depending upon the area, time of year and the amount of net that was put out. Some gill netters make their largest catches in the spring and fall spawning seasons when the fish are concentrated. I get weakfish, menhaden, mackerel, bass and bluefish. I really murder the weakies. Up here you get gill netters in the ocean and in the Sound. Some netters use stationary gear. Others use moveable gear. Still can't make a living gill netting though."

Most recent statistics on gill nets and their catches do not indicate that gill netting is a major source of revenue or that gill netting results in any significant maximum catch when compared with all of the major methods employed by our marine fisheries, a Department of Interior booklet entitled "Commercial Fishing of the United States" actually calls gill nets "entanglement gear" describing them as upright fences of fiber netting designed for various sizes of fish.

Different sized meshes capture different sized fish. Fish of a size for which the net is designed swim into the net, but pass only part way through a single mesh. As the fish struggles to free itself the twine slips back of the gill cover, preventing the fish from escaping. The fish is thus gilled and unable to go forward or backward. Gill nets are suspended at the surface, in midwater or close to the bottom controlling the number of buoy lines and the size and number of floats. When a fisherman loses his nets he is out quite a bit of money. A net will cost anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand depending upon size and quality.

Gill netters must consider the depth of water, the type of bottom and the kinds of fish in the area before they select their nets. Nylon nets are the most popular. Such a net will go twenty to one hundred meshes deep with double twine at the top and the bottom. Nylon has a high efficiency, long lasting rating and a tendency to entangle smaller fish. Some net and twine companies boast and brag about their nylon nets which have a life span of over fifteen years. Fishermen like nylon because no preservative is required before or after use. It is true that bacteria and algae collect on them, but for the most part they are impervious to fast rotting and destruction. Suppose we give lost and abandoned nets half of their life expectancy of about 8 years. If they are made of nylon they have a web of death and destruction quotient of 8 years. It would be difficult to figure how many fish are inadvertently caught and destroyed in a year's time by nets lost on the bottom. You can be sure, however, that this number would soar into the millions of fish trapped. And yet fish researchers say that gill net fishing is just a drop in the bucket compared to other types of fishing within the industry. It is obvious that our fishery experts have not taken the time or trouble to consider the detrimental effects of gill netting, especially those nets that are lost or abandoned. Some of these experts need to put on some diving gear and examine some of these webs of death: gill nets.

Surely an investigation should be made of this wasteful and inane killing of our marine creatures through non-selective net fishing.

If you run into a gill net with your boat, be very careful in disengaging your motor from the net. More than one unsuspecting fisherman has run into this gear and in the process of disentangling themselves has had their boat sunk. Some of these people have even drowned.

At any rate it is too bad that our marine creatures cannot talk. I am sure that they would be against "ghost fishermen"...gill nets.

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CLUB PACIFICO: Gem of the Pacific

Part Two — *by Al Ristori*

Guide Macho and Norm Newman help Darrell Lowrance slide aboard a 200 pound black marlin that hit a bonito head being fished for grouper off Coiba.

When Bob Griffin created Club Pacifico from the jungle, he intended that it should be a small game camp. The casting action would be hard to beat anywhere, and you can do even better by trolling a Magnum Rapala at high speed on 30-50 lb. mono. You can literally get all the action you could reasonably desire by trolling or casting close to shore, but the big game fishing also happens to be exceptional. You'll often run into sailfish while casting the reefs. Generally you'll spot them free-jumping just offshore, giving you an indication that it's time to snap on a plastic squid and start trolling. A few years ago I was casting on the reef off Jicaron with Ed Graser, former owner of the Outdoorsman Tackle Shop in Fort Lee, N.J., when Ed spotted a sailfish swimming by. He flipped his popping plug over and was surprised to watch the sail pick it up without

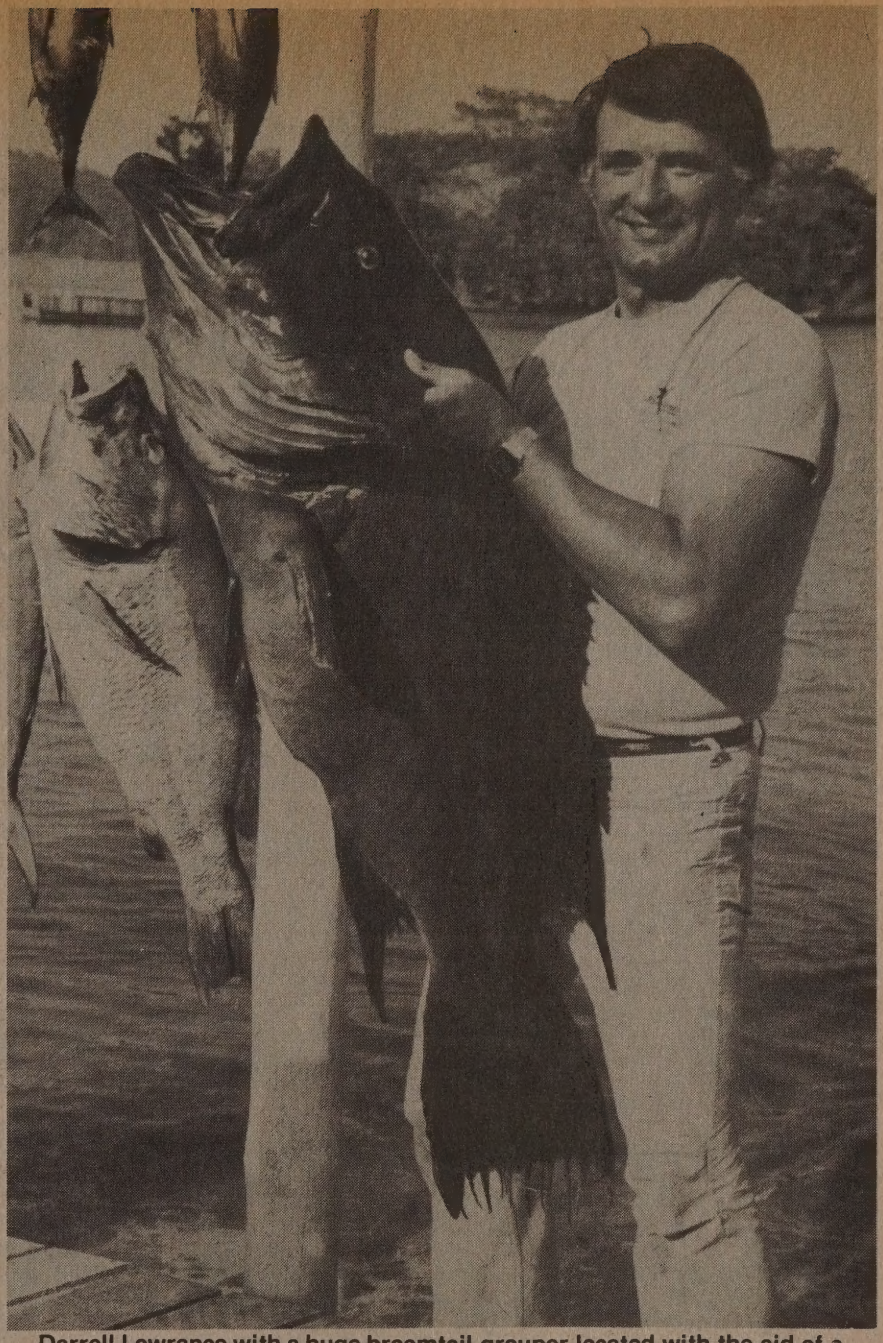
blinking an eye. Unfortunately, the hooks didn't set and the sail swam away as if nothing had happened.

Pacific sails average about 100 lbs. and are frequently larger. They are extremely fast and do lots of jumping, though they also wear out long before you do. Relatively light tackle is appropriate—even the casting gear you're using on the reefs. While they'll hit a wide variety of lures and baits, all you need for sails are a few plastic squid. They're frequently found in abundance at a variety of inshore locations, as well as at Hannibal Bank. However, this fishing is somewhat spotty. Boats can catch five or six in a few hours, day after day one week, while only a few will be caught the following week.

The real big game thrills are provided by black marlin. Some of the best fishing for this species on the eastern side of the Pacific can be found on Hannibal Bank. That bank is located about 25 miles from Club Pacifico, but it involves a run of little more than an hour on the Club's fast 23' Mako inboard diesels. Hannibal is an oasis surrounded by very deep waters. The bottom and mid-depths are stacked up with silk snappers averaging about 6-12 lbs. You can jig these fish until arm weary, and the readings I saw on a Lowrance graph last spring indicate why the hits come so quickly. Huge cuberas and amberjack lurk on the bottom, and the surface is often just as active. At times there are schools of rainbow runners, dolphin, bonito, mullet snappers, and jacks popping up everywhere.

When the surface action is wild, it's hard to concentrate on the marlin. A popping plug cast into those schools will get instant action, though many of the fish hooked are lost to sharks. Some weeks there is little of that great surface action, but the marlin may be just as abundant. In April, 1980 we had a hard time even catching the live bonito that make the best baits, but few of the baits caught went unmolested. During that week, the Mako Outdoor Writers Group caught 14 marlin and lost many others. The score would have been higher except that at least half of the week's fishing time was spent in pursuit of other species. Practically everyone who wanted to catch a marlin did so, and some of us got two. My first black—a 336 lber.—was quite typical of those caught, but got a little more attention since it was the one hundredth of the season. By the time the camp closed the following week, the score was up to a record 116.

To be sure, the black marlin fishing isn't always a good as it was that year at Club Pacifico. However, there's always a very good shot at these fish, and the sailfishing has been at its peak every year that the marlin fishing has been off a bit. Don't look for huge blacks in this area. Most run from 250-400 lbs., though some over 600 lbs. have been caught. A few blue marlin are included in the marlin count, but striped marlin are very unusual in this area. Most blacks are kept, since they are desired for food by the prison camp. I've eaten black marlin at the Club and found it to be very good. This fishing is suitable for 50 and 80 lb. gear, and can be quite a pleasurable experience from a small boat.

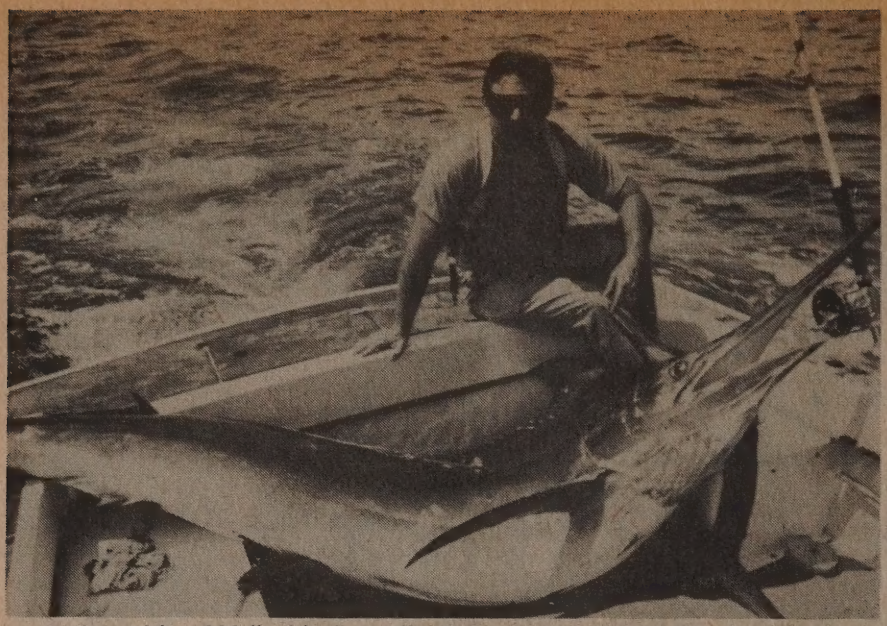


Darrell Lowrance with a huge broomtail grouper located with the aid of a Lowrance graph recorder.

The biggest problem with fishing at Club Pacifico is deciding where to go each day. Though the boats are equipped with radios, the camp has a safety requirement that at least two boats must fish a given area—and stay within that area all day. Except for Hannibal Bank itself, all of the areas are quite extensive, and that really isn't much of a restriction. Indeed, the inshore areas offer a shot at just about everything—even black marlin. Two of the 14 marlin caught on the Mako trip were caught by accident in inshore areas. One hit a chugger being trolled close to shore for cuberas, and the other hit a bonito head being dropped to bottom for grouper by Darrell Lowrance. Camp Manager Bob Spaulding once caught a black near the camp on a Magnum Rapala!

In addition to all the fishing I've described, there is much more. The wahoo fishing is sensational during the rainy season, but only strays are normally taken in the winter. Rainbow runners are caught in all areas and frequently exceed 20 lbs. Many rainbow runner records have been taken at Club Pacifico, and more could be established by any angler willing to concentrate on them. Huge cuberas, groupers, and amberjack can

(Continued on next page.)



Author with a 336 lb. black marlin that was one hundredth of season at Club Pacifico last year.

be winched up on heavy tackle from the bottom by simply dropping a large bait down. The guides don't even use weights to get the baits down. The waters are so calm that it's possible to sink them from a drifting boat in 60' to 80' of water. If you don't get enough casting, trolling, jigging, and bottom fishing in during the day, you can always cast right from the Club shore line in the evening or at night. I've hooked some nice fish that way.

After reading all the foregoing, I'm sure you'll agree with me that Club Pacifico is a fisherman's paradise. The only fly in the ointment is the price. Club Pacifico isn't cheap, but the cost won't come down at all in the future; so there's no better time to try it than right now. The basic rate at the Club (double occupancy) for seven nights and six days' fishing is $1460 per person. In addition there is a fuel surcharge, based on the increase in cost of diesel over the present $1.45 per gallon. However, Bob Griffin feels that the price is likely to hold up throughout this season. An optional land package includes the air charter to Coiba, two nights hotel in Panama City, all taxis and tips, and all gratuities at Club Pacifico. The rate for that package is $280 per person, double occupancy.

The Panama City portion of the journey can be very pleasant, and Bob Griffin also has another fishing attraction within the country. We'll talk about it in the next issue. Sufficient to say that fishing wives will thoroughly enjoy this trip. Club Pacifico is very comfortable and scenic, and the food is first-class. Space is at a premium in the winter, but it does loosen up a bit at the end of the winter season in mid-April. If a number of Fisherman readers are interested in going at that time, we might be able to arrange a group rate. Even during the solidly booked months of January, February and March, cancellations do occur from time to time; so it's worth a toll-free call to check on an opening. The winter weather is calm, warm, very dry, and usually cloudless. For more information, contact Club Pacifico de Panama, 517 W. 49th St., Hialeah, Florida 33012; 1-800-327-5662.

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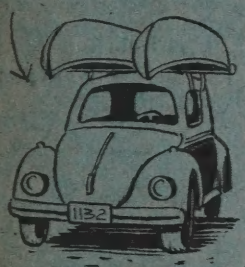
CANOE NEWS & TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

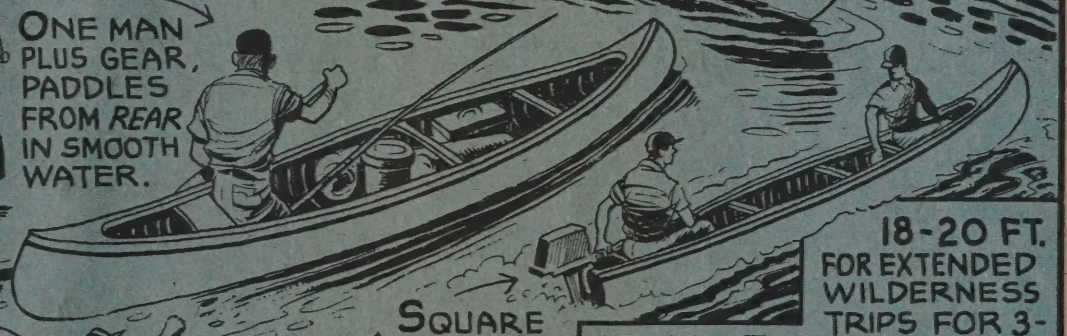
CANOEING IS A DELIGHTFUL PASTIME AND HANDY FOR FISHING PONDS, LAKES AND RIVERS BY AT LEAST SEVEN MILLION ENTHUSIASTS WHO AVERAGE 10 TRIPS ANNUALLY. UPWARDS OF 1000 CANOE LIVERIES SUPPLY THOSE WHO DON'T OWN THIS MOST SLENDER AND GRACEFUL OF BOATS.

A GOOD WAY TO EXTEND THE USEFULNESS OF ANY CANOE – *FOR FLY FISHING OR WITH INEXPERIENCED PEOPLE WHO MOVE SUDDENLY* – IS TO ATTACH REMOVABLE PONTOONS. THEY DON'T HURT PERFORMANCE AND IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CAPSIZE. GOOD FOR WHITE WATER ALSO.

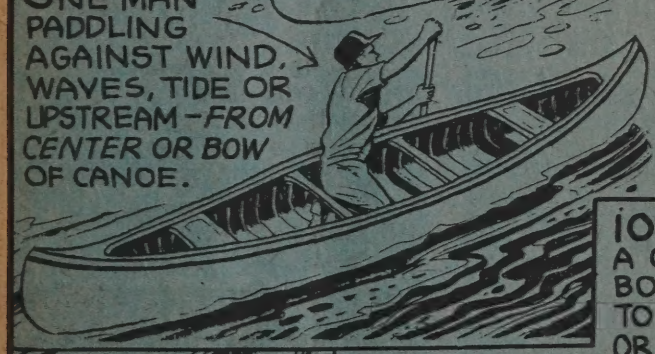
BECAUSE THEY'RE SO LIGHT CANOES CAN GO ON COMPACT CARS IN 1 & 2 BOAT CARRIERS. THEIR SHAPE MAKES LOADING AND UNLOADING EASY.



ONE MAN PLUS GEAR, PADDLES FROM *REAR* IN SMOOTH WATER.



ONE MAN PADDLING AGAINST WIND, WAVES, TIDE OR UPSTREAM – *FROM CENTER OR BOW* OF CANOE.



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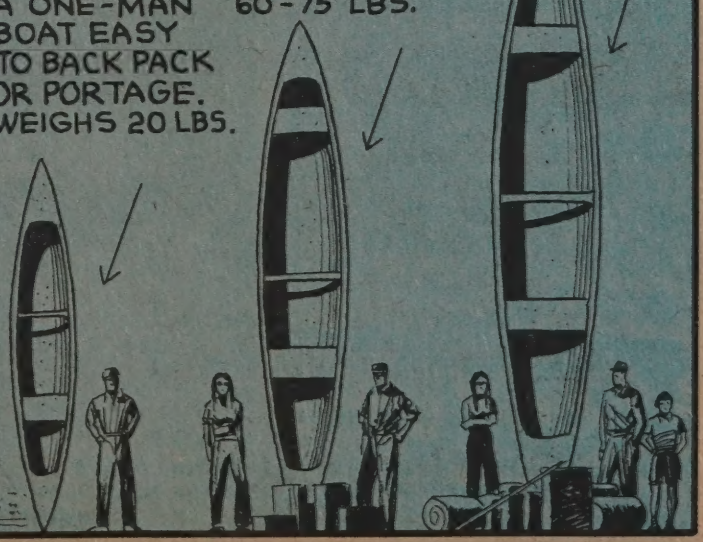
10-13 FT. A ONE-MAN BOAT EASY TO BACK PACK OR PORTAGE. WEIGHS 20 LBS.

A ROWING RIG, LEFT, CONVERTS A CANOE INTO AN EFFICIENT ROWBOAT EASIER TO FISH SHORELINES.



PROTECT THOSE WHEEL BEARINGS

by Charley Soares

Statistics along with our own personal observations indicate that bearing failure is the number one impediment to reaching the launching ramps. Not that the other components of your running gear are any less important, it's just that it's a lot easier to change a flat or low tire and run with a broken leaf spring than burned out bearings.

The latter could cause a hub or spindle to snap and have a tire and rim fly off the rig, disabling you and perhaps someone or something nearby. Assuming your bearings were packed and installed by a reliable yard or mechanic (or your own efficient hands) you have started on the right track. However, keeping clean, well lubricated bearings in just that condition requires an additional precaution. Dust caps (provided on many trailers) cannot provide adequate protection from road dirt and saltwater intrusion.

The above are tasks the "Bearing Buddies" were designed for. The installation of bearing buddies is the final step in bearing maintenance, but once installed they should not be forgotten. Regular inspection and maintenance will provide you with additional trouble free wheeling. These spring loaded devices come in sizes to fit standard trailer hubs and are fitted with a grease fitting for added lubricant. One of the few problems encountered in their employment is from over-zealous application of the grease gun. While topping off with lubricant is necessary from time to time, excessive greasing blows lubricant out the rear seals impairing their efficiency.

Upon arrival at the boat ramp, the hot hubs are submerged in cold water causing contraction. Rather than allow water to fill this void and cool the bearings, the spring loaded buddies compress lubricant and effectively keep water and foreign matter from entering.

I remove my bearing buddies semi-annually to clean up the area around the grease fitting and replace the used lubricant inside. This also affords me the opportunity to inspect the condition of the outer bearing. NOTHING LASTS FOREVER. Don't wait until you begin to hear funny noises to make an inspection; by then it's too late. Handling bearings or any part of your running gear requires operating room cleanliness. One particle of dirt or grit will raise hell on those highly polished surfaces with disastrous results.

To remove your buddies, employ a three pound sledge or heavy hammer and strike a sharp blow on the upper edge of the buddy. Repeat this along edge to break it slightly until you can see the first serration. Now you can finish taking this off using a hard block of wood, preferably oak. Use a towel or cloth under your work area to prevent the buddy or the bearing from falling to the ground. With CLEAN HANDS remove all grease from inside the hub. Check the outer bearing by spinning to see if it is clean and runs true. If it passes inspection, repack and install. Take a handful of grease (the nice, stringy kind especially for wheel bearings—not the multi-purpose kind) and fill in the cavity of the hub. Clean the grease from the inner portion of the buddy and wash the entire unit in kerosene or other suitable cleaning agent. Dry out and fill the cavity almost full with fresh grease (it beats filling it up with a grease gun after installation) and follow the instructions in the photos for installing the bearing buddies.

Using a 3 lb. hammer, tap lightly around the perimeter of the buddy to set it into the hub. Do not strike hard blows and damage the outer ring and perhaps the grease fitting.

Using a block of oak, place the wood squarely on the buddy and drive it home until last serration goes into the hub.

Using a grease gun top off lubricant being careful not to force grease out of rear seal.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD PLUG BETTER:

GETTING MORE OUT OF THE SPIN ATOM

by William A. Muller

It has been written many times that there is very little new (if anything) in fishing. There are the occasional new technologies and new materials that enter on the scene, but basic philosophies and principles are the same now as they were when cave men tossed polished animal bones into the water to lure a fish to strike. However, ideas do come and go with great regularity. Sometimes a technique or an idea may disappear for so long a time that when it re-appears everybody believes it to be a totally new one. Several examples come immediately to mind. We think of teasers which have made a big comeback in the last half-dozen years because sand eels are so abundant again. We think about skin plugs which are now at a low point in popularity because of an absence of big baits at the right places and the right times. We also are reminded of live-lining which was a forgotten approach before the big bunker came back in the late 1960s.

These are only a few examples, but I think they help to make my point. Sometimes these approaches are lost from the repertoire for good reason, but equally as often they are forgotten for too long. There is the natural principle of inertia at work here. We switch lures, styles, and places in response to a changing fishing scene and the NEW changes become habit, rendering forgotten techniques very distant memories. A shift to the old techniques (which would now be the new one because of time's passage) doesn't come easy because we took fish with a lure or a style just last year. However, it might be a great idea to return to a lure or techniques from your memory. In short, the risk may be worth taking.

There is another factor at work here too. It seems obvious to many anglers who fish a lot, that fish can get used to certain lures—particularly where they are used for long periods of time by many people in a limited area. The "turn off" to a lure by a species of fish may be heightened by a subtle change in bait, but sometimes I think it just becomes a question of too much exposure to the same thing.

The "take a new look at an old idea" attitude may be especially important when it comes to plugs. Years ago we were much more limited in the sizes, styles, colors, and materials used to make plugs. Carving wood had its limitations and there was a limited amount of detail that could be included profitably. Then along came the post World War II plastics boom. Plastics could be treated different than wood because they could be made to change state. That is, you can melt a solid plastic and turn it into a liquid and you can treat a liquid plastic rendering it solid with some time. Carving became obsolete and the "new" approach was to mold plastic. The mold could be as detailed as you wished because although considerable skill and time might be needed to make the mold, it could be used again and again: it was cost efficient. Along came a parade of plastic swimming plugs and they were immediately successful. They looked like a bait, they swam like a bait, and they could even be made to smell like a bait (odor pellets). There is no doubt that such lures take great quantities of fish, and there is no doubt that they always will because they are great lures. Still these lures have their limitations. That isn't a knock on them. No, not at all. Rather we must accept the idea that nothing is perfect. Even the most beautiful woman can have her beauty enhanced by a flaw or two. The plastic swimmers do not cast as well as their wood predecessors and they may not work as well in strong currents. These are two of the limitations that come to mind. Distance casting, however, is not very important under most of the quiet water conditions which prove ideal for the plastic swimmers. Thus, nobody cares or notices. However, try casting one into a strong wind or in the fall to get beyond the line of breakers. That's why the big wooden plugs always held their own market. It was the smaller versions of darters, bottles, and swimmers made of wood that took it on the chin. Some of the "older" models have maintained a certain popularity and are still around, while dozens of others are simply no longer available.

The baby brother of the Atom family can be a powerful tool in the arsenal of any surfman.

One of the smaller plugs that did survive the "Swedish Connection" was the SPIN ATOM. This 7/8 oz. plug (there is also a smaller size) is similar in design to the Atom 40, the Junior Atom, and other metal lip swimmers. The smaller size of the Spin Atom, however, puts it in the category of the 5" Swedish Swimmers. One point: today's Atoms are plastic and thus the wood-plastic discussion is more historical than present reality. The Spin Atom of today is made of a type of styrofoam plastic, but harder and more durable than the styrofoam we are used to seeing in packaging. In fact, my Spin Atoms have been virtually indestructible.

Most stout bodied plugs are most effective in large sizes when they can effectively imitate a wounded large bait such as a bunker, herring, or mullet. Thus, when the bait is sand eels, a stout bodied plug may seem a little out of place. This can be true, especially when sand eels are very thick and there are no other baits around. Yet, the 7/8 oz. Atom can be a near-perfect copy of a large spearing, a small mullet, a tinker mackerel, or an anchovy, just to mention a few. We have encountered just this kind of scene on several occasions. Most guys were throwing the plastic Swedish jobs, but they did not necessarily take as many fish as one would think based upon the high level of feeding activity. Why? Perhaps there were a lot of sand eels and the plugs offered blended in too easily. I took a look around and I saw what looked like four to five inch mullet swimming in the area. The

(Continued on next page.)

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Spin Atom did the trick. Now, do not misunderstand me; I carry a complete plastic arsenal because there are times when the above trick doesn't work. My point is to suggest that we leave our options open and try variations on the theme. Carrying a few Spin Atoms is a good way to be prepared for several variations.

Perhaps by now I have convinced you of the need to carry a variety of lures; it gives you more chances of success. In spring, I carry Swedish swimmers, plastic worms, bucktails, droppers, and Spin Atoms. On more than one occasion this diversity in my arsenal saved a night. In any event, if you are interested in this concept then it might pay for you to keep reading. The next logical question is: how do you fish it?

The answer to this question (from my perspective) is a bit more complicated than one might believe. The standard answer would be to fish the lure slow the same way you would other plugs. Okay, but the Spin Atom can do more for you than that with a little modification. Right out of the package, the plug has #4 hooks and the rear hook has bucktail on it. As a standard approach this is great and should, therefore, be your technique of first choice. However, we can go beyond this. Larger and even smaller hooks can be substituted for differing conditions. I recall one night when the water was incredibly clear and the moon bright. Darned if you could see the fish follow the plug in and then shy off at the last moment. Since I carry an array of pre-modified Atoms, I took one with #6 hooks out of my plug bag. I adjusted the drag to the light side and made a cast. BANG—they hit that plug right away because, I believe, the hooks were now far less visible. Those fish wanted the plug all right, but they didn't feel comfortable with those odd metal things hanging down! I also carry Spin Atoms with larger hooks: #1 and #2. The larger trebles are heavier and these will cause the plug to swim more slowly and perhaps run just a little below the surface. The switch to smaller hooks or larger ones will change the action and allow for a closer match of the plug's action with the motions of the baits swimming in the area. I also rig some without bucktail hairs on the tail treble. Again, it is a matter of experimentation and experience. There are times when the bucktail seems to make the fish take better, but there are times when it has the opposite effect.

A fisherman cannot carry twenty different Spin Atom plugs (at least most of the time), and we haven't even mentioned colors yet. Okay, we need a route around this problem. I have my arsenal of all styles of plugs ready to go at the start of the season. When the game fish first start to arrive, I'll bring a great variety of plugs with me. In fact, I'll try not to bring two of a kind and I'll bring different colors by making sure that each new plug style is in a different

color. Each time I go fishing, I'll try as many as I can and based upon my early experiences, I try to reach conclusions about which type of plug will be favored. Now, I can cut down on the diversity and carry doubles of the plugs that seem to be hot. I may even doubie up on colors. After two or three weeks of the new season are over, my tackle box and lure bag become more fixed. The change of species and season may require further modifications, but those changes will usually entail no more than two or three changes. Of course, there are those rare situations when all of a sudden everything gets turned upside down. We try to be flexible so that we can react successfully. However, most seasons settle into a pattern based upon the availability of bait, the abundance of game fish, the locations of their feeding, etc., etc.

Okay, you'll make up an arsenal with smaller trebles, larger trebles, some with bucktail and some without, and at least one of each color. However, the plug can still be changed. The metal lip and eye gives the fisherman more variation. If the eye of the plug is bent down, the plug will run shallow; and if it is bent up the plug will run deeper. There are times when that can be a big help. I remember one night when several dozen regulars were working a stretch of beach and not taking many fish at all. The water in front of us was about ten feet deep. There was ample evidence that there were lots of fish feeding, but why didn't they hit? There was no fire, etc.—one by one we ruled out all the possible explanations. Plastic worms and bucktails didn't work because the baits were not sand eels or small shrimp, etc. One of the old-timers on the beach took out his pliers and bent the eye on his plug way up. He made a cast and he was in. The rest of us followed suit. The opposite has happened in shallow water on calm nights. By bending the eye down the plug ran along the calm surface, set up a beautiful V wake, and we took fish. The lip of the plug can also be bent, although this can be a bit more dangerous than bending the eye. You see, the entire balance of the plug can be upset if the lip is not bent carefully. Sometimes, the darn plug can't be set right again no matter what you do. So beware: it could pay off in better fishing, but you could turn a good plug into a dog.

In general, bending the lip down will cause the plug to run deeper, while bending it up will cause the plug to run more shallow. This results because the lip bent down at a more exaggerated angle takes a bigger bite of the water, results in more resistance, and forces the head of the plug down. Changing the angle of the lip will also change the action. I have found that when the lip is bent down, I get a more exaggerated tail action—a more frantic action. This new action can be better or worse. If I simply want the plug to run deeper, I'll bend the eye up; but if I want that action changed, I'll play with the lip. There are all kinds of combinations of eye and lip positions that produce different actions at different running depths. You'll have to experiment with these to find which work best for you, where you fish, what you fish for, when you fish, where you fish, and the rod and reel tackle you like best. I carry a pliers at all times for two reasons: one is to remove hooks more safely, and the second is to have the power to bend hooks, eyes, and metal lips. Obviously plastic lips can't be bent safely. I have seen people heat treat the plastic and then bend it, but you get only one shot and it's hard to "go home again" if you make an error.

Well, there are some suggestions on how to make the Spin Atom a valuable angling tool. It doesn't matter whether you work the beach or from a boat—the plug still works and these variations can be used to improve your success. One other advantage. The plug casts a lot better and that in itself can be the edge you need. Suppose you were fishing with small baits (such as sand eels), but couldn't reach the fish because of a wind. A really big plug might spook the fish, a Swedish style plug might not reach them, but the Spin Atom will get there. Add a small teaser and those fish may take the small teaser that can now be cast far enough.

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FROSTBITE COD

by Gerald Hahn

For Long Island anglers suffering from cabin fever, open boats provide a good opportunity to put some cod on the table but there is a price to pay.

There is no need to slumber like a groundhog when you can go fishing in the middle of the winter. As you look out of your frosted window, perhaps at a snow-covered lawn or a slushy street, you may think there isn't a fish in the northeast; yet there are many anglers who fish regularly on open boats throughout the winter.

A winter fisherman I know told me that on one trip it was so cold, the rods froze to the holders and had to be chopped free. Another fishing venture, he said, was delayed for over an hour while the skipper attended to breaking up the ice in a frozen harbor. I know my limits: when the Atlantic resembles Prudoe Bay, I stay home. But even in January and February there are moderate breaks in the weather, brief periods of sunshine, when temperatures rise to the upper 30s, and this is a perfect time to squeeze in a cod trip out of Freeport, Captree, Montauk, or sometimes Sheepshead Bay.

Since open boat schedules are likely to be erratic at this time of the year, it is advisable to call beforehand. For sure, many boats will be running on weekends, and some schedule trips on weekdays, as well.

Having made your choice, the next thing to consider is keeping warm, for even a 40° day on shore will be much colder at sea, despite heated cabins, decks and rails on modern open boats. A friend who peddles various goods in the winter on the streets of New York is an expert at keeping warm. Believe it or not, he brings a carpet along, for he claims that the greatest heat loss takes place at the feet...and other extremities, such as the head and fingers. Now I'm not suggesting wall-to-wall carpeting for an open boat deck, but thermal underwear, two pairs of socks and pants, and insulated boots are a good beginning. Likewise, a face mask, such as the kind used by ski buffs, will keep the frigid air off most of your face. Top it off with an insulated hat over the mask. For the body, several layers of light clothing provide better protection than one heavy item. Then put on your foul weather gear, if you own an outfit. Finally, consider that although you may feel snug everywhere else, your fingers will no doubt suffer the greatest exposure. Some anglers wear old gloves from which the finger tips, especially the thumb and index finger, have been cut. In this arrangement the hands are kept reasonably warm while sensitive fingers can work the line. At any rate, waterproof gloves are the best protection against ice-cold metal reels and reel seats. Rags are essential, as well, since wet fingers—even inside gloves—freeze quicker than dry ones. When codfishing, your fingers will become wet whenever you change the bait, which is typically half-frozen in

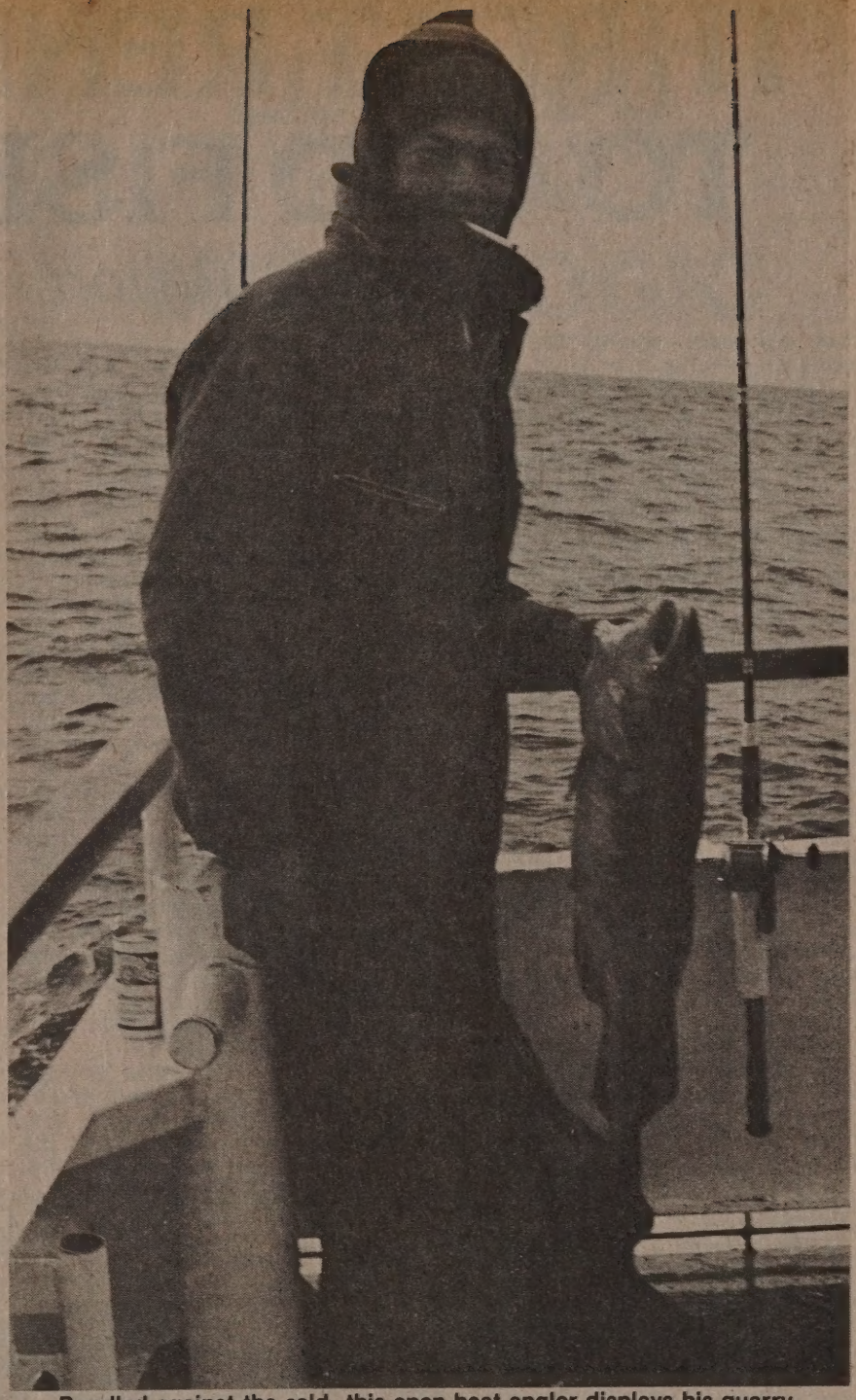
Set lines are proof enough of just how effective a "dead stick" can be.

the early hours.

The next item to consider is tackle, unless you prefer to rent, in which case you will receive a perfectly adequate 6' or 7' boat rod and a Penn 60 or 65 with 40 lb. test. For those who prefer some leverage, an 8' meat stick is better, and for a quick retrieve, a reel comparable to the Penn Jigmaster. Mid-winter cod often reside in depths of over 100'.

Cod rigs should be as simple as possible. A 6/0 Sproat, Claw, Beak, or an O'Shaughnessy hook snelled to an 18" leader of 50 lb. test is standard. On many boats today, however, one finds shorter 12" snells and low visibility bronze hooks in use, which apparently are just as effective. Sinker weight varies, although a 10 oz. diamond or bank is used most often on both the South Shore and off Montauk. Even so, it is wise to bring along some lighter and heavier sinkers, from 8 to 14 oz. Rigging heights vary, too, and the mates should be consulted before rigging up. Generally, when an 18" snell is used, it is connected to a dropper loop on the main line no lower than a snell's length above a large end loop for the sinker. When fishing over a wreck, however, the hook is tied from 2' to 4' above the sinker. Some anglers employ a 50 lb. test leader and a barrel swivel for the rig, especially when fishing a wreck. Should they catch "real estate" instead of cod, the rig will break at the swivel and over 100' of line is saved. The 3' or 4' leader is tied to the swivel with a clinch knot, and the main line is tied to the other end of the swivel with an improved clinch knot. On the other hand, when fishing the open bottom where snags are seldom encountered, some anglers use two-hook rigs. The bottom hook is tied, as before, and the top hook is connected to a second dropper, at least a snell's length above the bottom hook. Nonetheless, experienced anglers prefer single hook rigs. Double-headers are exceedingly rare, and the chances of tangling are greater when more than one hook is used. No matter which rigging method you prefer, leave the flashy beads and other "jewelry" home, and let your fishing technique and the bait attract the quarry.

The most commonly used bait for cod is the surf clam, even though cod will greedily devour strip baits, crabs, whole baitfish, squid and almost anything else. A cod's stomach resembles a garage sale, and some anglers gut their first small cod for partially digested food, especially shellfish, which are then recycled. If a cod has recently eaten a crab, it stands to reason that the fish will prefer a crab to a clam. Even so, most fishermen will rely on clams, which are generously spread around the boat. One clam will do the job if it is carefully impaled and twisted on the hook several times until it covers the shaft. A small amount may be pulled over the eye and onto the leader itself. A few loose stringy parts dangling below the point are effective as well. Avoid skewering the hook with a foot-long clam-kabob, as do so many fishermen. Cod or scavengers will slurp it away, leaving you bare. Better to pack one clam firmly on the hook and replace it when it bleaches to a whitish color. Winter cod like their clams juicy.



Bundled against the cold, this open boat angler displays his quarry.

Since the boat will probably have a light turnout, try securing a position at the stern. Most of the hits come from the stern when the tide is running against an anchored boat. But when wind and tide collide, the bow is better. Avoid the sides unless the boat is anchored over a wreck in such a way that one side faces it.

Most of the time it is better to cast the baited rig away from the boat rather than to lower it directly to the bottom. Facing upcurrent, the cod will see your bait before others. Casting, then, is another reason for baiting up carefully, otherwise, the clam falls apart on the first cast and provides good chum for other fishermen. After casting, pay out the lines slowly to prevent the hook from riding up and tangling with the main line. When the rig finally strikes the bottom, let out a little extra line and engage the reel. Always fish a "dead line" for cod. Do not jig or move the bait unless you want to scare the fish

(Continued on page 59.)

THREAT RENEWED TO COD FISHERY

by Al Ristori

Over the years one of the most consistent fisheries from Block Island to the central New Jersey Coast was the late fall run of cod. Traditionally it was in good shape off Block Island (and sometimes even at Montauk) by early November and got into high gear to the west by the middle of that month. There were good years and some not so good, but the cod were always there every fall. At least that's the way it was before the foreign fleets arrived!

The sad story of what the pulse fishing methods of the foreign fleets did to the cod and haddock resources off our coasts during the 60s won't be repeated here, as it's all too familiar. The result was a disaster for the Mid-Atlantic, since we're on the southern fringe of this fishery—and depleted species tend to stay in areas most suitable for them, rather than making long migrations. During the 70s codfishing was picky in the prime areas to the East, and it got really terrible to the West. A few winters ago, Captain Howard Bogan estimated that the total party boat catch for the New Jersey coast could be counted on the fingers of both hands.

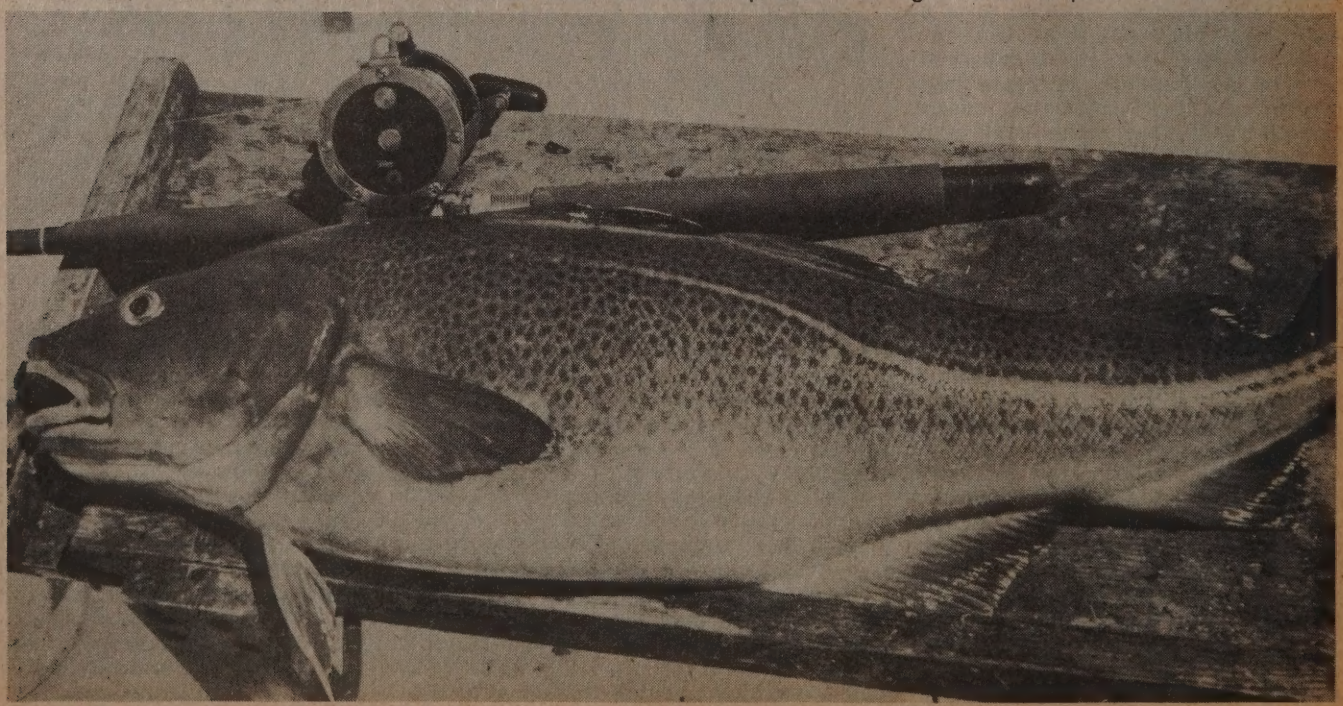
Fortunately, the winter king has come back since the foreign fleets were placed under the strict controls of the 200-Mile Limit Act. Not only are cod and haddock prohibited species to the foreigners (any caught must be thrown back), but the "windows" in which they're allowed to operate for ling, whiting, squid, etc., are located outside of areas frequented by cod and haddock. To be sure, the fishing isn't like the "old days," though it has been pretty good at times. The Coxes Ledge summer fishing the last two years has been up to historical standards, and the spring fishing off Block Island has been fairly productive. The latter area has offered some fine fall fishing, though it now seems as if it doesn't get into high gear before December. Most significantly, there's been a year-by-year improvement in the fall fishing off western Long Island.

The fishing to the west is still no slaughter, but you don't need a long memory to remember when a party boat catch of even a few cod was newsworthy. Now the boats are frequently able to average two or more per angler, and most of the fish are big. Cod are starting to pop up on old grounds that had gone dead for years, and the New Jersey fleet is gradually getting back into codfishing.

Despite all the criticism of the New England Fishery Management Council's groundfish plans, it's evident that their restrictions on the overall catch have accomplished the purpose of increasing the stock. Though there still isn't much scientific evidence to back up the theories I've espoused about codfishing in our area over the years, I haven't seen anything happen which would discredit those theories. Our cod seem to come from the southern New England stock, and it's my contention that this stock must be very healthy if we're to get any significant numbers to the west. The population must be large enough that some are tempted to move west with the cooling water in order to find new food sources.

If my theory is correct, then we must be very concerned about the level of commercial fishing to the east of us. Even a relatively small reduction of the stock there could have serious consequences for the western cod fisheries. Right now the cod stocks are in pretty good shape and Mid-Atlantic anglers are pleased with the gradual build-up in rod-and-reel catches. However, there are storm clouds on the horizon. The Interim Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Groundfish, recently sent out by the New England Council for review, would do away with the present management schemes and throw the fishery wide open.

Before looking at the negative aspects of this plan, let's take a glance at its positive side. The one



thing that everyone in the commercial fishing industry can agree on in relation to the present groundfish plan is that it hasn't been equitable. The trip limits set have worked a hardship on some vessels—especially those who actually observed the law. Unfortunately, most captains figured out ways of getting around the limits—and most succeeded in doing so. Even those who were caught usually only got their hands slapped. Under these circumstances, the idea of an "open" fishery looks fairly attractive to everyone—even if there are a few limitations.

Rather than controlling the catch of individual vessels, the New England Council proposes to let everyone catch all they want, but under certain conditions. First of all, there will be a minimum mesh size of 5-1/8" the first year and 5-1/2" thereafter. However, this mesh restriction applies only to the Gulf of Maine west of Penobscot Bay and to Georges Bank, not to local areas or some of the vital southern New England grounds. Second, commercial fishermen will be subject to a 17" minimum size for cod and haddock; while recreational fishermen will have a 15" limit for those species. Third, there will be area closures in haddock spawning sites. Data collection will be on a voluntary basis.

What will be the net effect of this program? According to the Council, the aggregate catch of the three species covered (cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder) will jump in 1982 from the 95,000 tons which would be the quota under the present plan to 110,000 tons—and that would increase further to 115,000 tons in 1983. Furthermore, the Council concedes that all three species may be somewhat overfished at these higher levels!

Why would the New England Council permit overfishing of these valuable stocks? Basically, they believe the present system isn't working due to the mixed catch nature of the trawl fishery. In the course of taking the targeted species, too much of another may also be boated. Furthermore, there has been great growth in the industry since the 200 mile fisheries jurisdiction went into effect and quotas based on historical catches don't reflect the present state of the business for allocation purposes. To top it off, groundfish population levels appear to be in good shape.

The objectives of the new plan are to (1) enhance spawning activities; (2) reduce the risk of recruitment overfishing of cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder; and (3) acquire reliable data on normal fishing patterns of the industry and the biological attributes of stocks as determined by commercial activities. The focus obviously is on protecting the young of each species in order that they may have the opportunity to spawn at least once, thus preventing "recruitment overfishing"—the reduction of a spawning stock by fishing to a point where reproduction holds poor potential for future recovery of the stock. It should be kept in mind that successful spawning depends on a great number of factors besides spawning stock size, and that this system is designed only to enhance the possibility of spawning success—not guarantee it.

Where does the stock stand now? The annual surveys conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service indicates that the cod stock is in good shape, though there are some question marks. The 1975 year class, which has sustained the fishery in recent years, has been replaced as the dominant year class by that of 1977—which was only of average strength. The 1978 year class was above average, but the 1979 results were poor. There is still some question about the 1980 year class as some surveys look good, while others indicate that it was below average. More importantly, the Georges Bank and South cod stock biomass may be starting to decline once again, and relative exploitation rates have increased to a point within the 1964-1970 range—when the foreigners were out there!

On the other hand, cod stocks in the Gulf of Maine are in excellent shape; haddock stocks have recovered due to strong year classes in 1975 and 1978, and even yellowtail flounder stocks on

(Continued on next page.)

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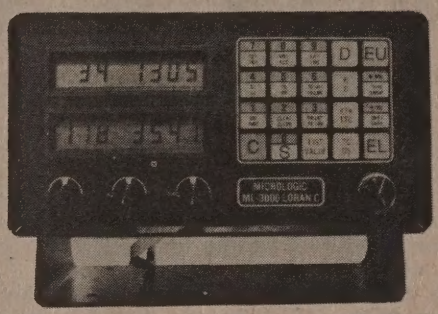

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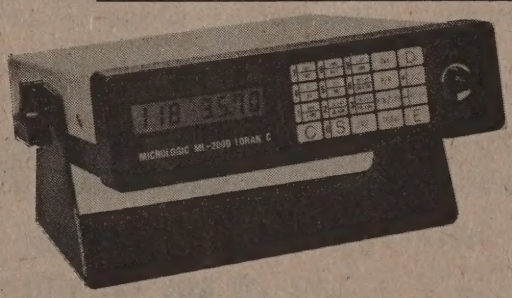

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Georges and in the Gulf of Maine have made comebacks. It's only the yellowtail flounder stocks of southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic that remain in poor shape. Therefore, it's only the cod and yellowtail stocks fished for in our area which might be threatened in the short term by the overfishing which the Interim Plan will permit.

While the virtually "wide open" fishery proposed in the Interim Plan will probably be welcomed by most commercial groups, it's doubtful that it will solve the problems of the groundfish industry. The basic problem is that there are too many boats in the fishery. They all figure that if they can just land a little more everything will be all right. However, the usual result of heavier landings is lower prices—and the new system may hurt the stocks while providing little added income for a fleet already pressed by high fuel prices. To illustrate how the fleet has grown since the 200-mile limit was passed in 1976, consider these numbers. Figures for 1980 aren't available, but between 1976 and 1979 the small vessels (5 to 60 gross registered tons) increased from 385 to 566—a build-up of 47%. In the medium class (60-125 GRT), the fleet grew from 175 to 232, while the biggest change was in the huge fish catchers over 125 GRT. The latter increased by 144% from 81 to 198. It's little wonder that the George Bank cod catch has increased from 14,906 tons in 1976 to 39,045 in 1979.

It's harder to get a handle on the recreational catch. The 1979 Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey put the cod catch at 3,857 metric tons, less than one-quarter of the catch estimated by a 1970 survey. Unfortunately, the methodology in those two surveys was so different that it's difficult to make any comparisons between them. Experts believe that the earlier surveys (which relied heavily on recall of catches over a period of time) came up with numbers which were at least double the actual catch. However, even that would leave quite a gap between recent sport fishing catches and those in the past. I would suspect that the recreational catch of cod has increased substantially in the last two years.

One of the greatest threats to the recreational cod fishery is the proliferation of sink gillnets. These started in the Gulf of Maine and the number of boats using them jumped from 66 in 1978 to 108 the next year! In 1980 there were only 18 cod gillnetters working the southern New England area, but they're becoming all too familiar on the grounds favored by sport fishermen. Whereas draggers need clear bottom to work on, sink gillnetters can set right on the rough bottom numbers worked by party boats.

From the recreational standpoint—especially in the Mid-Atlantic—the Interim Plan appears to present many dangers. The New England Council seems to be more concerned with allowing commercial fishermen to harvest all they can of healthy stocks (such as the Georges Bank haddock) than with preserving the cod stock in the same area that may easily be overfished. In justifying the 17" minimum length, the Council notes that 50% of both male and female haddock become mature before they grow to that size. The 11" commercial minimum for yellowtail flounder (the yellowtail is a small offshore flounder rarely caught on hook-and-line) will also assure that over 50% of the population will have a chance to spawn. However, the 50% maturity size for cod is 19½" for females and 21.1" for males. Obviously, the 17" minimum doesn't accomplish the purpose in the case of cod. The situation is even more serious for the pollack (a by-catch in this fishery)—few of which reach maturity even at twenty-one inches!

The real solution to the minimum size problem with nets is to have an adequate mesh size requirement. Once again, the Council fails to give full weight to their own statistics. In order to save 50% of the immature cod entering a net, a 6" mesh size is required. However, that will mean only 50% retention of 19" haddock and 13" yellowtail (both two inches over the minimum size). The Council has chosen to ignore the obvious

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conservation solution and, instead, is going with a 5-1/8" mesh size in the first year and 5½" in the future. The 5-1/8" mesh will bring the 50% retention length on cod down to 17.3" (well below spawning size), and of haddock to 16.6"—barely at spawning size. When they finally go to 5½", the cod 50% retention length will still be only 18.6".

In evaluating the short and long term impacts of changes in mesh sizes, the Council looked at the differences between the 5-1/8" mesh recommended for the first year and the 5½" and 6" possibilities. The short term effect of the 5½" mesh on Georges Bank cod would be a 9.69% drop in catch in the first year, but the long term would see a 7.32% improvement. With 6" mesh the first year catch would drop 22.98%, but the long term gain would be 16.82%. Unfortunately, the statistics indicate that there is little to be gained with haddock over the long term by reducing the catch sharply now with a larger mesh size. Therefore, the Council opts to endanger the cod stock in order to harvest as many haddock as possible.

As you can probably tell by this point, I'm not too enthused about the Interim Groundfish Plan. As a practical matter, I'm not opposed to elimination of trip quotas and other burdensome restrictions. However, this opening up of the fishery would be the ideal time to institute a really effective conservation measure: a 6" mesh size. It's a shame that the Council has not seen fit to take two bold steps instead of one—especially since the opening up of the groundfish fishery will probably have a negative effect on the cod stocks. The spawning area closure is a good idea, but the Council turned down another logical proposal: nursery area closures. They also failed to come up with any mechanism for management of the fisheries should a serious decline in stocks occur.

While the above points may seem obvious, perhaps the most serious defect of the Interim Plan is its failure to properly take into account the recreational fisheries—particularly those of southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic. To quote from the plan, "The only Interim Plan management measure which will have a direct impact on the recreational fishing industry and on anglers is the minimum fish size of 15" for cod and haddock." Actually that minimum will have practically no effect on the inshore anglers covered by this plan (state regulations will still cover the bulk cod caught within three miles). The New England Council misses the point entirely by not realizing that what they do to effect harvest rates of cod to the east will impact our "forge" fisheries to the west. It seems likely that even a relatively small reduction in the southern New England population could result in a substantial drop in the schools which seek out off western Long Island.

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The Interim Groundfish Plan, as presently constituted, is an open invitation to overfishing—and could well result in a reverse of the improvement in codfishing we've noted during the past couple of years. By going to a 6" mesh size immediately and providing a means for taking control of the fisheries should a species suffer significant reverses, the Plan could be made workable. We'll be working to see that the appropriate changes are made and both the recreational fisheries and the Mid-Atlantic area are given the consideration that they are obviously not extended in the present plan.

ON THE CARE AND CLEANING OF FISH

(Continued from page 31.)

avoid injury from sharp-finned fish such as sea bass and porgies; plus a fairly stiff, sharp knife. You'll find a butcher's boning knife ideal. Keep it sharp by occasionally honing the edge. Shun those knives that come equipped with a scaler on one edge. They are usually too short and too thick to do a good job.

Here's the secret to fast fish-cleaning: scale all your fish before you do anything else. Get that job out of the way immediately. Much time is lost when each fish is individually scaled and then cleaned before going on to the next one.

Before you put the knife to use, wash each fish to remove all loosened scales. This will prevent not only dulling the knife edge, but will also prevent a possible cut should the fish slip from your grasp due to those loose scales.

Pay attention now. Grasp the fish in one hand and push the knife point completely through the fish slightly aft of the pectoral fin. (This is the fin at the middle of each fish near the gill cover.) Then angle the knife toward the anal region and slice completely through with one motion. This cut is high enough to remove all intestines and most of the rib cage. Next, remove the head. You have now cleaned and gutted your fish with but two swift passes of the knife blade. If you can't gut and behead an average-sized fish in ten seconds with this method, better take up golf or some other sane sport.

Incidentally, never scale those fish you intend to fillet. Not only do you skip this unnecessary step, but the scales act as a barrier, preventing the sharp knife edge from cutting through the scaleless, paper-thin skin.

To fillet round fish, simply start at the shoulder, following the backbone to the tail, making short, deft strokes. Lift off the side as you go along. Simple and uncomplicated—especially when you don't have the head and rib cage interfering with the knife blade.

To skin a fillet, place it skin side down on the cutting board and make a careful slice about a half-inch in from the tail end. Be sure you don't cut through the skin. Then, with a firm grip on the skin, place the knife at an angle and work the fillet against the knife blade, using a sawing motion. Put pressure on the knife as you slide it between the skin and meat. The fillet will peel off as if by magic. Takes a little skill, but it is easily mastered.

To fillet a good-sized flounder or fluke, lay the fish on the board, top side up for fluke, bottom side up for flounder. Make a diagonal cut from the shoulder toward you, skirting the aft portion of the gut cavity and ending at the outside fin edge.

Next, make a long, continuous cut through the center of the fish to the tail, following the slightly indented line running the length of the backbone. Slice off one piece at a time, working toward the outside fin line. This method will give you four fillets from each fish.

Some fishermen prefer two fillets instead of four. To do this, make a diagonal cut as before; then a half-inch in from the edge of the top fin, make a long, continuous cut to the tail, following the contour of the fish. Start filleting at the shoulder and work the side off.

I know all this sounds easier than it is, but don't fret; all you need is practice. Once mastered, you will be surprised at how fast you can work. I know one fisherman who can fillet a whole flounder in less than one minute—with nary a bone!

Cleaning and caring for your catch isn't difficult. If you want to be sure those fish are in the best possible condition for your table, take the time necessary to learn the art. You won't be sorry.

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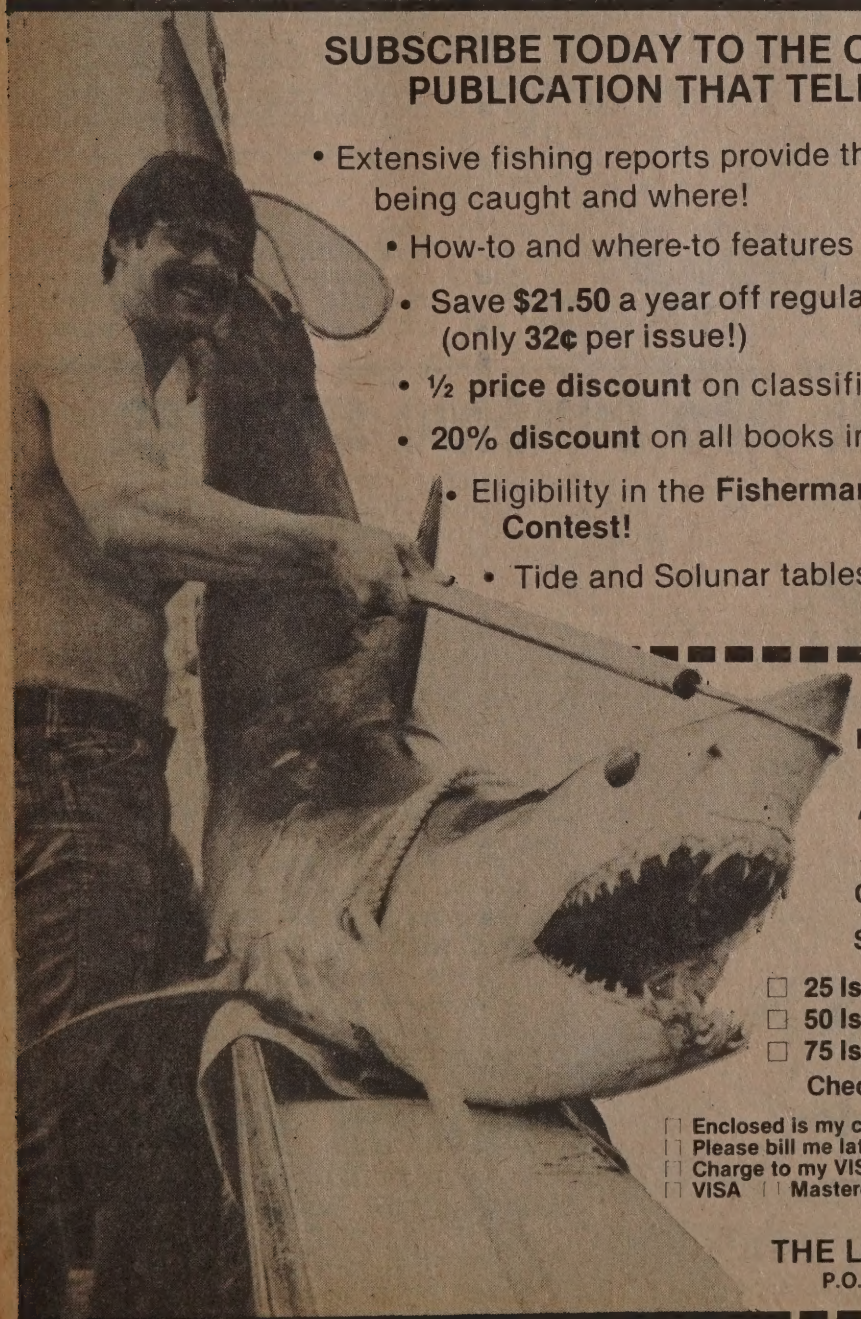

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HOW TO FISH A LURE

(Continued from page 35.)

Rebel Lures felt so strongly about the importance of depth, that they actually went to Rainbow Springs, in central Florida, to test their lures. The clear waters there allowed perfect visual observation of lures during the retrieve; observations that were verified with photographs.

While striving to verify the depth that each Rebel lure attained with different line sizes, they found out that heavier lines caused their lures to run at shallower depths, while lighter lines caused the same lures to run at deeper depths. They also discovered that heavy lines tended to retard the action of smaller lures, and recommend that you use lines in a class lighter than 10 lb. test when casting lures weighing less than 3/8 oz.

Furthermore, they also found that if a lure is running at six feet, it runs at that same depth all the way up to the boat. So, if you have ever caught a fish directly under your boat that you thought had followed your lure all the way in before deciding to strike at the last possible moment, chances are that the fish was suspended under your boat at that depth all the while, and only struck your lure when it came into vision. If it happens, try the next few casts directly under your boat, to see if other fish are suspended there too. It could very well be that you might have been over-casting all the while; chances are 50/50 that this could be so, and I'll take odds like that in fishing any day of the week!

Comparison testing showed that the size of the line you are using has a direct effect on the depth that your lure will run at. Rebel's research team found that variations in depth could reach up to two feet, when 8 lb. test line and 17 lb. test line were used on the same lure. There may be times that this variance could be a critical factor. On those tough days, when you could swear that there just are not any fish around, that two foot difference could be a distance to be seriously concerned with. Try changing to a line of a different strength; if, for instance, you are using 10 lb. test line and get no results, try popping in a spool of heavier stuff, say 15 lb. test line, and give that a try. The reverse also holds true: if you are using heavy line, try switching to lighter line. In either case, using the same lure, you could quite possibly either lower or raise that lure to the correct feeding level.

Perhaps the most astounding information to be revealed relating to depth was the effect of retrieve speed. Without any doubt, the speed you retrieve a lure at has more effect than anything else on the maximum depth that lure will attain. This holds true with any line size you may be using. A medium to slow retrieve will always give you the maximum attainable depth with a lure; while a very fast, smoking-hot retrieve will always cause that same lure to run much shallower. This holds true for trolled lures also. Have you ever had occasions where many strikes were had as you maneuvered into a turn? This happens many times, and we tend to feel that the fish are located in one particular section; so we make our trolling patterns conform to the original successful pattern, and take fish after fish in that one particular spot every time we go into our turn. The truth is that the lures drop lower in depth as the boat's speed slows down to make that wide, gentle turn that will not cause two or more trolled lines to tangle, as would happen if tight, hairpin turns were made at fast speeds. The wiser trollers realize that this could mean that the fish are feeding at lower depths, and usually reap greater harvests simply by reducing trolling speed to a slower pace.

Here some explanation is in order. Deep running plugs are affected more by retrieve speed than shallow running plugs. Basically, this is because the deep running plugs have the line-tie screw-eye attached to the diving lip, whereas shallow running plugs have the line-tie affixed in the

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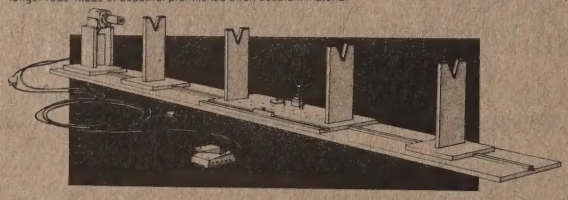

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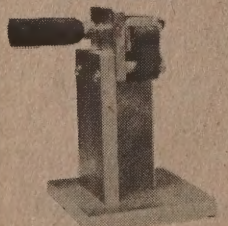

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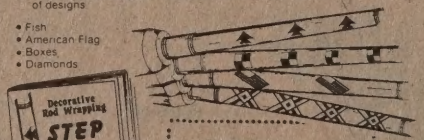

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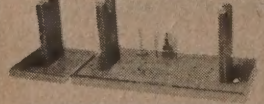

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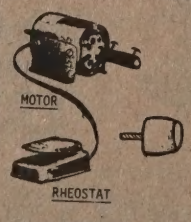

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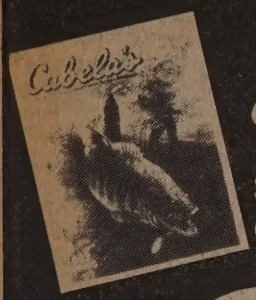

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nose of the lure. When you reel or troll very fast, the resistance of the line against the water is greater and, on deep diving plugs, tends to pull up on the diving lip at the same time that the diving lip is trying to force the plug deeper.

Without precipitating a physics discussion that could leave all of us completely bewildered, suffice it to say that maximum retrieve speeds will generally cause deep diving plugs to run about 20% shallower than they would normally run when retrieved at moderately slow speeds. So, the rule of thumb is: fast retrieve, shallow depth, slow retrieve, deeper depth, assuming that the same lure is fished by the same angler, using the same size line. By applying this rule, it should be easy to see that if the fish you seek want a fast moving bait at six feet, you should select a lure that is built to run at eight foot depths, because lure running depths are rated for moderate retrieve rates. To help clarify the confusion, please refer to the chart that is reprinted here through the permission of the Rebel Lure Company.

Saltwater anglers are less concerned with strata fishing than are their freshwater counterparts, who have gone so far as to divine proper feeding depths by using thermometers to read water temperatures. Many freshwater fish hang suspended at particular depths because of their preference for the specific water temperature at those depths. Therefore, by fishing in water of the specific temperature they seek, those freshwater sharpies are assured of fishing at the proper level. Saltwater fish may not have preferences that acute, though they are motivated by water temperature also. Our fish are nomadic, and move about over vastly greater areas than freshwater fish, and have tides and currents to contend with also. Furthermore, our fish can very often be caught at different water depths at the same time: witness some fish being caught on the surface or at mid-depths, while other fish of that same species are being caught by other anglers fishing on bottom.

So, although we do not rely on thermometers to determine proper fishing levels, we do depend on our electronic depth recorders or fish finders to show us where those rascals are. These gadgets pinpoint bait and predator alike at any and all levels, at the same time that they are recording an exact picture of bottom formations. Experience teaches us what each tiny scratch of the stylus means, and it is then a simple matter for us to get our lures down into the correct strike zone.

The lure most of us rely on for this type of search and destroy mission is usually some form of a diamond jig—either the true diamond or one of the newer, sand eel types. This lure is heavy enough to reach bottom, yet can effectively catch fish at every

(Continued on next page.)

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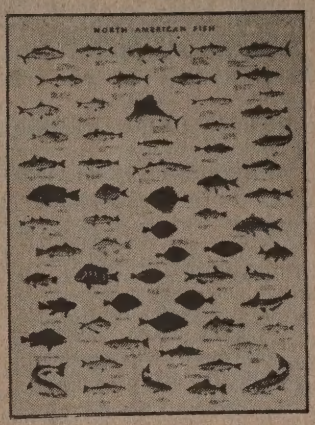

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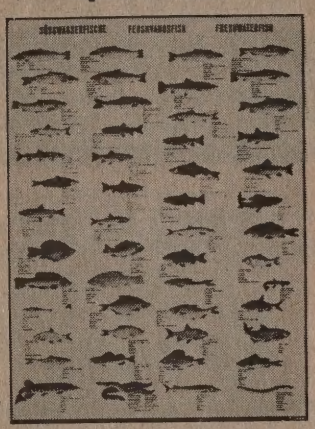

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level. Usually, the lure is rapidly lowered to the bottom and immediately retrieved at a very fast rate of speed. This gives the lure the appearance of a baitfish, and different techniques can be used to make that lure resemble many different baits. For example, when fishing for mackerel—the jig is lowered to mid-depths and given a herky-jerky, jigging action that seems to have great appeal for those fish, rather than any fast-squidded jig that might better appeal to bluefish that are feeding on those macs. In either case, the diamond jig's effect is enhanced by the addition of tube lures rigged above it, that might make the rig appear to the predators like one smaller predator chasing tinier baitfish. For blues, weaks, striped bass, and pollack, one large tube is tied about three feet above the jig, and for macs or whiting two or three small tubes are spaced out about a foot each above the jig.

The lure many anglers would choose, if given one choice, is the bucktail jig. This weighted hook has a hair, feather, or nylon dressing, and can be manipulated by the angler to impersonate many baits. Bounced slowly on bottom, it might resemble a shrimp or small crab, while slowly jigging that lure as it is slowly retrieved causes the dressing to pulsate, thus giving the lure a swimming baitfish look. And, like the diamond jig, the bucktail jig is also efective at many different levels of water.

Kissing cousin to the bucktail jig is the plastic-tail jig, where the dressing is replaced by a soft plastic imitation of any one of many baits, either grubs, minnows, or worms. Here the angler must determine the proper bait to reproduce, then proceed to fish that lure at the proper level, using the correct retrieve technique and speed. The soft plastic undulates seductively on the retrieve and closely resembles a real living creature to hungry predators.

Speed of retrieve is extremely important in saltwater, too. That rapidly retrieved diamond jig might appeal to bluefish or pollack, but if you seek striped bass or weakfish, you had better slow down a bit, or you might end up without fish. Line size also affects us, because heavier lines offer greater water resistance, hence larger lures must be used to get you down to proper levels. Small jigs call for light line and sometimes it's those tiny jigs that rack up big catches. If we apply the information gathered by the boys from Rebel Lures to our other lures, and apply similar techniques to our saltwater fishing, perhaps we too, might learn how to fish a lure.

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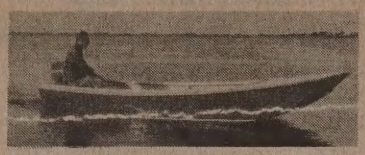

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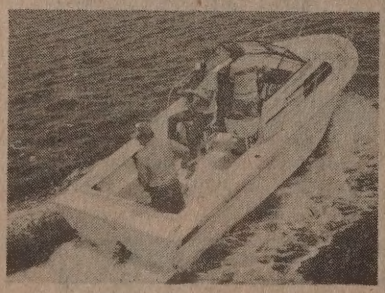

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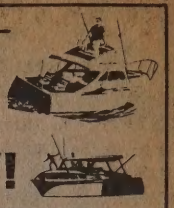

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FROSTBITE COD

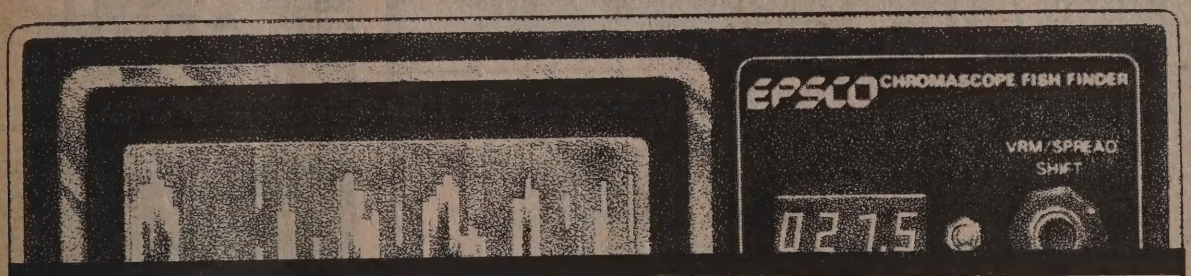
(Continued from page 49.)

back to its birthplace in Newfoundland. Cod do not need coaxing; they like to make up their own minds, and you should raise and lower your rod primarily to stabilize the bait against the boat's pitching and occasionally to check whether a fish has fallen asleep with your hook in its mouth. Cod do that sometimes.

Winter codfishing may be divided into two types: wreck fishing and open bottom fishing. Given the cods' erratic behavior and scarcity these days, they may show up at one place or another, and therefore, many trips combine the two. Last winter, for example, on a cod trip out of Captree, we fished in the morning at the Linda Wreck, southeast of Fire Island Inlet, in depths of 120' to 140', and later on we tackled the open bottom to the west in shallower water of about 100' to 110'. Of the two, open bottom fishing is easier, since there are few obstructions on the ocean floor. Fewer scavengers, too. But wreck fishing is generally more productive, since the fish are already concentrated in a relatively small area. Then again, fishermen must pay careful attention when fishing over a wreck. Bergalls, toadfish, conger eels and the like, are just as voracious in mid-winter as in June, and all are eager to steal your bait. Using a larger amount of clam sometimes helps, but fingers on the line, eyes peeled on the rod tip, are essential, otherwise you may be fishing with bare hooks—indeed with no rig at all if you latch onto the wreck. In contrast, fishing over the open bottom is often done with the rod tied to the rail and the reel in free spool with the clicker on, while the angler warms himself in the cabin with some hot brew. As long as the bait is firmly on the bottom and not swinging erratically, a cod in the vicinity will hook itself and let you know when to reel in.

That cod are frequently hooked without the angler's assistance is proved by the use of set-lines on many open boats and some commercial boats. A set line consists of a long rope to which about 100 hooks have been tied in series. Each baited hook on a short leader is accompanied by a sinker and a cork float. At one end of the set-line, a weight is lowered to the bottom, and at the other end a marker buoy floats on top. The mates drop the set-line on the way out and retrieve it with many hooked cod at the end of the day. Portuguese commercial fishermen, or dorymen, as they are called, still use set-lines, over a mile long, for Newfoundland cod and reject trawling with nets. Having fished successfully this way for hundreds of years, they should know.

Long Island codfishing is certainly not what it used to be. Today, even experienced anglers are content with a few fish. The past two years have witnessed an improvement, so there is room for optimism. Perhaps the most consistent fishing occurs during the fall and spring runs, any time between mid-November through December or April to June. Nevertheless, winter fishing, while slower, can produce surprising catches. Some days, cows or "hangers" weighing 30 to 50 lbs. are caught; other days, smaller fish averaging 8 to 10 lbs. are the mainstay. And there are days when cod of any size are scarce. Even so, a mild winter day makes codfishing worthwhile, for aside from breaking the monotony of a cold fishless existence, the angler will encounter some magnificent spectacles. At dawn, for example, rainbow hues reflecting off the ice floes make sci-fi effects pale by comparison. Moreover, there is a special kind of camaraderie on winter boats, probably because of the light turnout and the cold weather. A few cod in the freezer and spring will not seem so far away after all.



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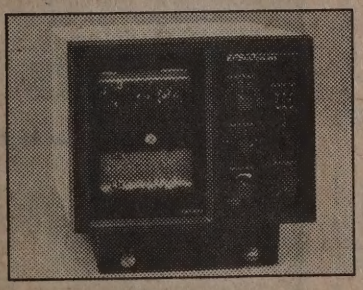

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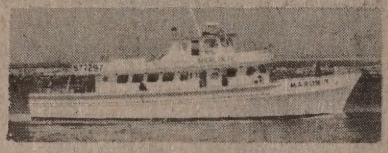

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

CAPTREE

Captain Eddie Brincat of the charter boat **Eddie B II** asked us to let you know the boat is being spruced up for '82 and he is awaiting your calls.

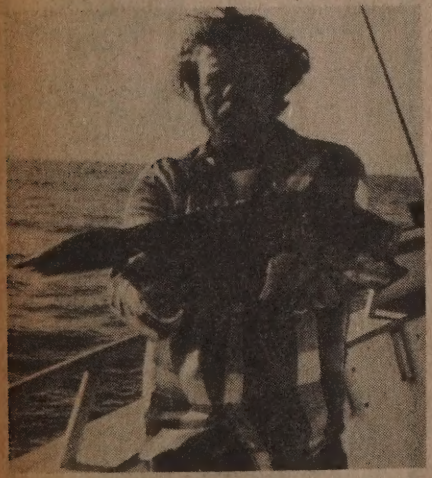
According to Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** codfishing was very picky all this past week and weekend due to the severe cold and high gusting winds. Catches are expected to bounce back once we're out of this deep freeze.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

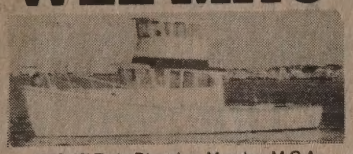
Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starsstream II** sailed in Sunday's bitter cold and screaming winds with 19 passengers. Heavy snow was also encountered. By 10AM, 10 cod to 20 lbs. had been decked at which time the fares pleaded for mercy and the skipper returned to the dock. Saturday's trip accounted for over 30 cod for 20 men, of whom 15 actually fished. Richie reminds you to dress warm if this frigid weather continues. On the days sailed during the week catches of from 50-80 cod a day was the order of the day, with pool fish in



This huge sea bass, taken by Steve Kearney, tipped the scales at 5 lbs. even. It was caught out of Captree on the "Captain Bob Joseph."

MONTAUK
OPEN BOATS & CHARTER BOATS

WEE MAC



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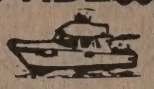
MEMBER M.B.A. MEMBER M.C.A.



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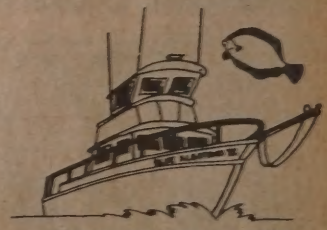

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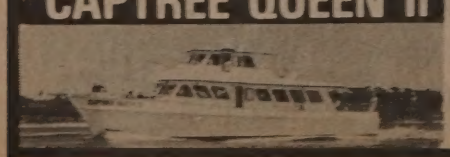

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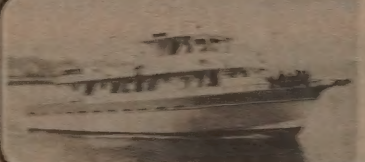

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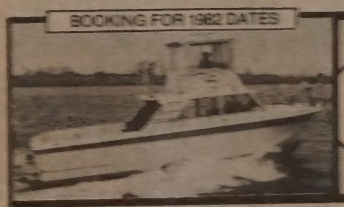

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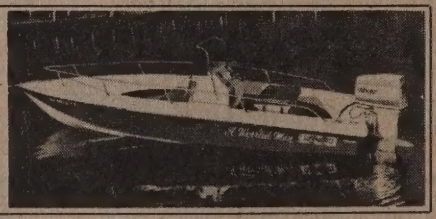

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the 40 lb. class.

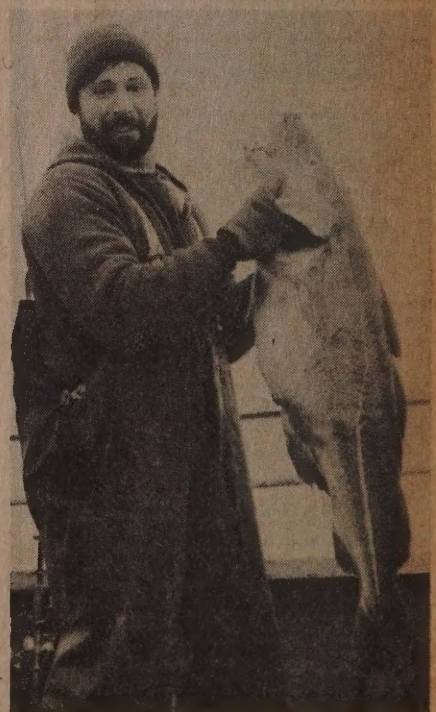
Captain Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** tells us that Wednesday's trip, 13 fares accounted for 96 cod with just about a duplication of this on Thursday. Friday saw an anchor cable break, so that the boat had to return to the dock early. Saturday's trip had very good cod results, with 103 cod taken. In Sunday's frigid temperatures and 30 mph winds, fare that could cut the mustard at the rail had 3-4 cod apiece.

Captain Jim Lanzaratta of the **Super Spray II** tells us the codfishing Monday through Friday was good and his fares even had a good pick Saturday despite poor conditions. Jimmy says the cod are still very definitely around and he's getting mixed fish with pool winners in the 40s. He says the heated rails on his boat really make the cold weather fishing bearable, and that he expects catches to remain good with moderating weather.

The **Miss Freeport II** asked us to remind you he is now sailing 5:30AM daily and the codfishing remains productive.

POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Walter Specht formerly of the Captree charter boat **Lady Ann** and Capt. Ron Murray formerly of the Captree charter boat **Sea Bird** have asked us to let you know they will be bringing an open boat into Pt. Lookout around the end of March. The boat, **Miss Pt. Lookout** will begin '82 sailing two half-day trips daily for flounder. They will also be accepting large charters. Watch these pages for their advertisement.



A mid-December trip out of Freeport aboard the "Capt. Al," produced this 37 lb. cod for Dr. Bruce Rothstein.

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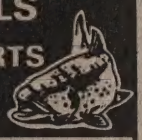

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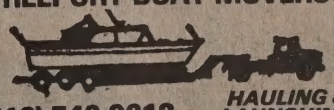

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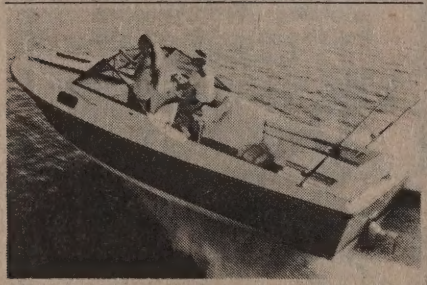

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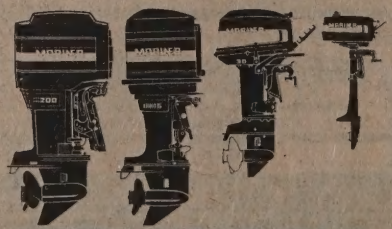

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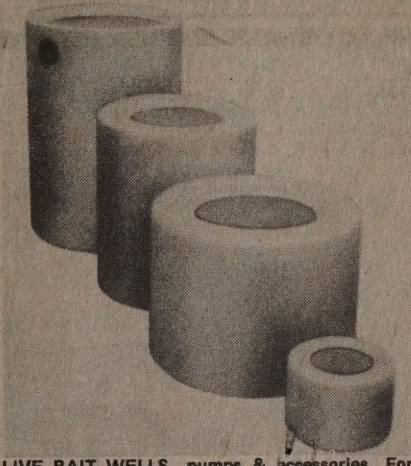

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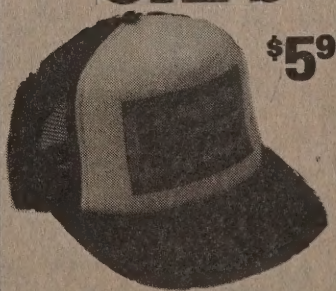

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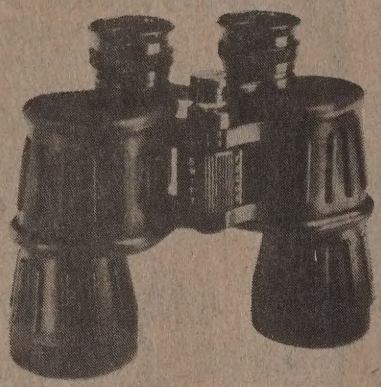

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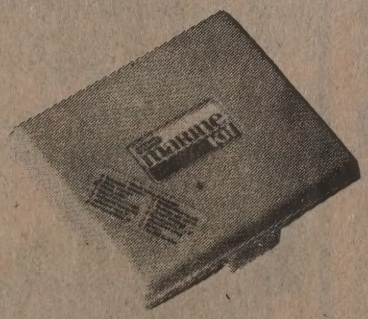

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